DC 100 SUPER SPECTACULAR 100 PAGES

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WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES

Starring

BATMAN

50¢

DC-8
NO.238
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100 ACTION PACKED PAGES OF STORY AND ART FROM COVER TO COVER

DOOM PATROL

PLASTIC MAN

AQUAMAN

ROBIN

BATMAN

SARGON THE SORCERER

N-495

DC 100-PAGE SUPER-SPECTACULAR

Starring **BATMAN** DC-8

Cover by NEAL ADAMS and DICK GIORDANO

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BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
BOB KANE
OBSERVE THE SPECIES BATMAN, CLASS! ONCE CONSIDERED AN INTELLIGENT LAWMAN, BY OUR STANDARDS HE IS DULL-WITTED AND OBSOLETE!
DEFEAT BATMAN
N-421
FROM: BATMAN #70 (APR.-MAY, 1952) - ART: WIN MORTIMER
PERHAPS NO ONE HAS RUN UP AGAINST MORE CRIMINAL TYPES THAN HAS THE MASTER LAWMAN, BATMAN! AND-HOWEVER CLEVER AND DIABOLICAL THEIR SCHEMES, GENERALLY THESE MEN WERE FROM THE SAME MOLD--INFERIOR IN ALL WAYS TO BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER! BUT NOW THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT! CAN IT BE THAT A CRIMINAL TYPE HAS EMERGED THAT CAN OUTSMART AND OUTFIGHT BATMAN AT EVERY TURN??? THAT'S OUR STORY--AND IT TURNS RED-HOT--WHEN BATMAN MEETS...
"THE MASTERMINDS OF CRIME!"

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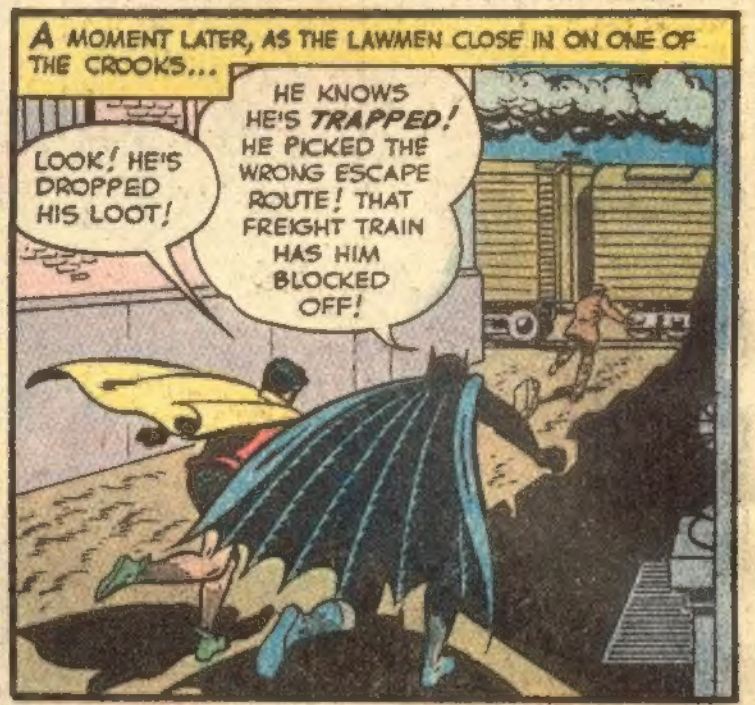
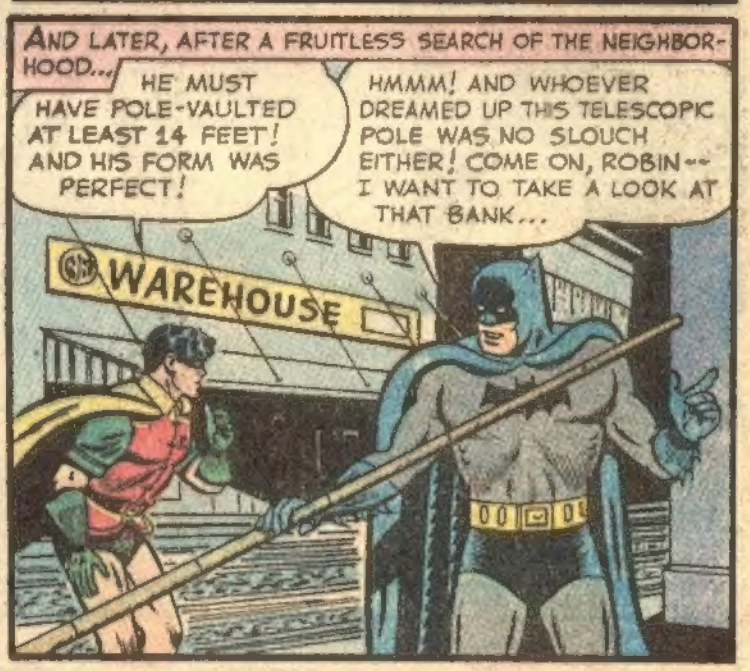
ONE NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER CONTINUE THEIR NEVER-ENDING VIGIL AGAINST CRIME...
DOWN THERE, ROBIN! BANK-ROBBERS! LET'S GO!
JEFFERSON NATIONAL BANK


A MOMENT LATER, AS THE LAWMEN CLOSE IN ON ONE OF THE CROOKS...
LOOK! HE'S DROPPED HIS LOOT!
HE KNOWS HE'S TRAPPED! HE PICKED THE WRONG ESCAPE ROUTE! THAT FREIGHT TRAIN HAS HIM BLOCKED OFF!

BUT THEN...
WOW! HE WAS CARRYING A TELESCOPIC POLE WITH HIM--AND LOOK AT HIM POLE-VAULT!
AN INCREDIBLE FEAT--WORTHY OF AN OLYMPIC CHAMPION!!

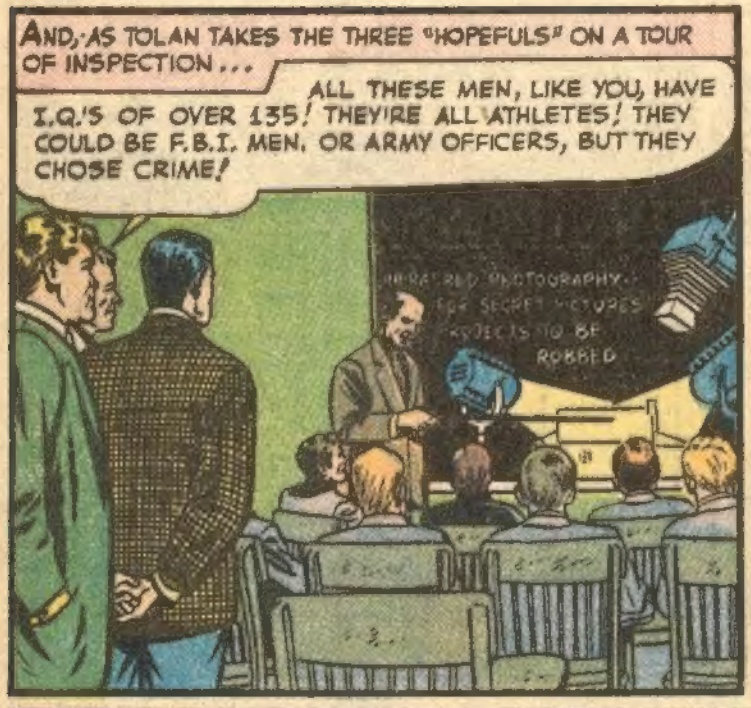

AND LATER, AFTER A FRUITLESS SEARCH OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
HE MUST HAVE POLE-VAULTED AT LEAST 14 FEET! AND HIS FORM WAS PERFECT!
HMMM! AND WHOEVER DREAMED UP THIS TELESCOPIC POLE WAS NO SLOUCH EITHER! COME ON, ROBIN--I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT BANK...
WAREHOUSE

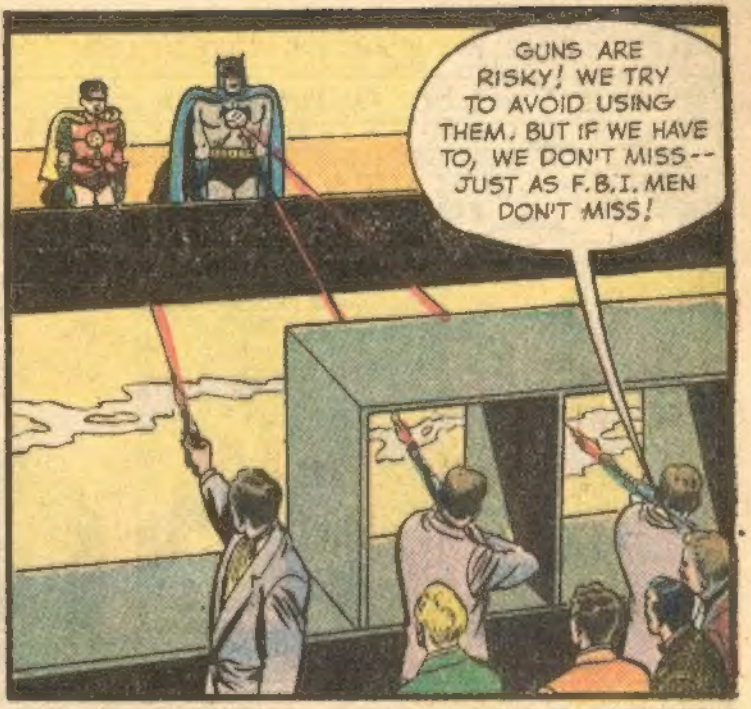
NO ORDINARY BLOW-TORCH WAS USED ON THIS DOOR! I'VE NEVER SEEN A JOB DONE SO NEATLY!
I'M BEGINNING TO SMELL REAL TROUBLE, BATMAN! WE APPEAR TO BE UP AGAINST A VERY EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION!

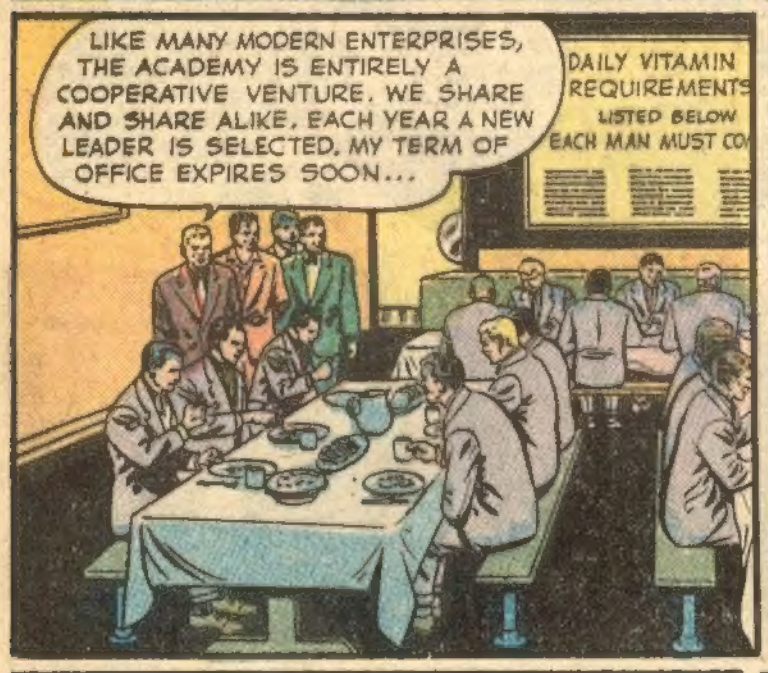
NEXT EVENING...
THERE'S THE JEWEL THIEF, BATMAN! LET'S CLOSE IN ON HIM QUICKLY!

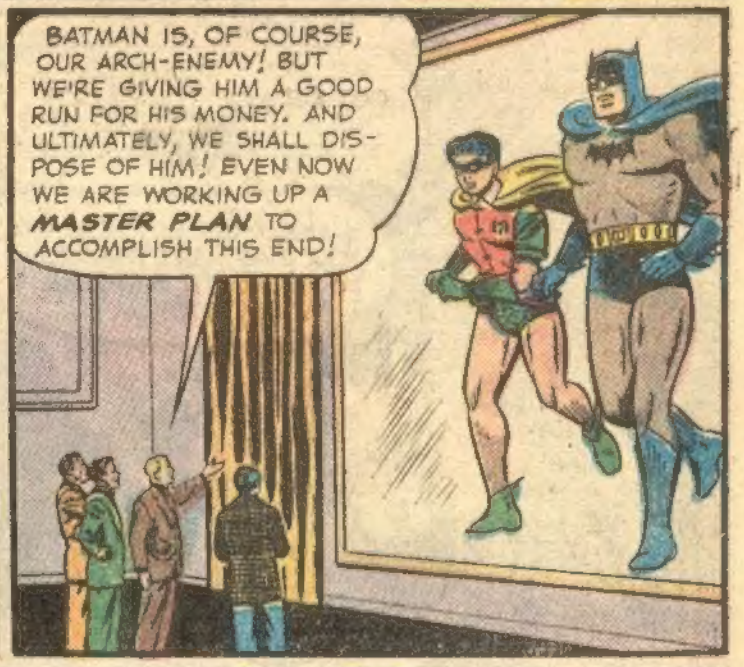
ALL AT ONCE...
LOOK, ROBIN! ANOTHER RARE ATHLETIC FEAT! THAT CROOK HAS BROAD-JUMPED NEARLY 20 FEET WITH ALL HIS CLOTHES ON!
HE'LL GIVE US A GOOD CHASE, ALL RIGHT--WE HAVEN'T HAD ONE LIKE THIS IN YEARS!
OF COURSE, WE CAN DO A LITTLE BROAD-JUMPING OURSELVES WHEN THE OCCASION CALLS FOR IT!
OH-OH--HE'S BLUNDERED! HE WAS SO INTENT ON WATCHING US, HE'S TANGLED HIMSELF IN A TELEVISION ANTENNA!
AND MOMENTS LATER, A TERRIFIC SLUGFEST SWAYS ACROSS THE ROOF!
BATMAN'S GOT HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM! I'VE NEVER SEEN A CROOK LAST THIS LONG IN A FIGHT WITH BATMAN!
BUT FINALLY...
HMMM! HE PUT UP QUITE A FIGHT--HE'S IN SUPERB CONDITION FOR A CROOK! LET'S GET HIM DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS FOR A LITTLE QUESTIONING!
AND LATER, IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
HE WON'T TALK AT ALL, BATMAN! ALL WE KNOW IS THAT HIS NAME'S DAVE GREGG AND THAT THERE'S NO RECORD OF PREVIOUS ARRESTS...
ONE MORE THING, COMMISSIONER. THE POLICE PSYCHIATRIST JUDGES THIS MAN'S I.Q. TO BE AROUND 135--WHICH IS HIGHLY ABOVE NORMAL INTELLIGENCE!
THE BRAINS OF A PROFESSOR AND THE BODY OF AN ATHLETE-- IN AN ORDINARY JEWEL THIEF! AND APPARENTLY THERE'S MORE THAN ONE! YOU'RE RIGHT, ROBIN-- WE ARE UP AGAINST A VERY EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION!
3

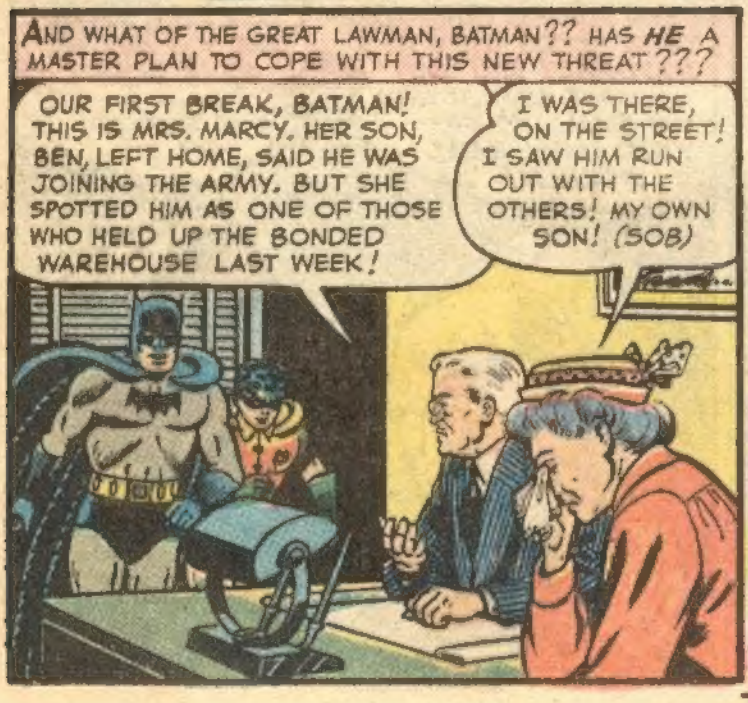
THAT VERY MOMENT, IN AN OUTLYING SECTION OF GOTHAM CITY...
MR. TOLAN--THE THREE NEW APPLICANTS FOR THE ACADEMY HAVE ARRIVED. THEY'RE IN YOUR OFFICE...
OKAY--I'LL GO UP IN A MOMENT...
LATER...
WHEN YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY, YOU JOIN THE GREATEST CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD! FOR WE KNOW THE SECRET THAT MAKES CRIME PAY! COME--I'LL SHOW YOU!
AND IN A DARKENED PROJECTION ROOM, THE ARRIVALS GAZE AT AUTHENTIC MOTION PICTURES...
WHY WAS THIS CROOK CAUGHT? BECAUSE HE WAS CLUMSY AND SLOW! NOT IN CONDITION! HE HAD A GOOD START ON BATMAN--BUT HE FRITTERED IT AWAY! HE SHOULD HAVE CLEARED THAT FENCE WITH EASE!
SAY--THAT'S THE F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, ISN'T IT?
YES! HERE, THE CREAM OF AMERICAN MANHOOD IS TAUGHT HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST CRIME! THEY'RE TRAINED WELL--SCIENTIFICALLY AND INTELLIGENTLY! THEY'RE SMART--STRONG--AND TOUGH!
BUT THE AVERAGE CROOK IS JUST THE OPPOSITE! HE DOESN'T KEEP IN TRAINING--HE DOESN'T STRIVE FOR KNOWLEDGE--HE KNOWS NOTHING OF SCIENCE! NO WONDER SO MANY ARE CAUGHT!
BUT HERE AT THE ACADEMY, IT'S DIFFERENT! WE TAKE THE SAME APPROACH TO CRIME AS THE F.B.I. TAKES TO CRIME-BUSTING! WE TOO TAKE ONLY THE CREAM OF MANHOOD--AND TRAIN THEM WELL--SCIENTIFICALLY AND INTELLIGENTLY!!
4


AND, AS TOLAN TAKES THE THREE "HOPEFULS" ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION...
ALL THESE MEN, LIKE YOU, HAVE I.Q.'S OF OVER 135! THEY'RE ALL ATHLETES! THEY COULD BE F.B.I. MEN, OR ARMY OFFICERS, BUT THEY CHOSE CRIME!
ROBBED


GUNS ARE RISKY! WE TRY TO AVOID USING THEM. BUT IF WE HAVE TO, WE DON'T MISS--JUST AS F.B.I. MEN DON'T MISS!


LIKE MANY MODERN ENTERPRISES, THE ACADEMY IS ENTIRELY A COOPERATIVE VENTURE. WE SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE. EACH YEAR A NEW LEADER IS SELECTED. MY TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES SOON...
DAILY VITAMIN REQUIREMENTS
LISTED BELOW
EACH MAN MUST CO


BATMAN IS, OF COURSE, OUR ARCH-ENEMY! BUT WE'RE GIVING HIM A GOOD RUN FOR HIS MONEY. AND ULTIMATELY, WE SHALL DISPOSE OF HIM! EVEN NOW WE ARE WORKING UP A MASTER PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH THIS END!


AND WHAT OF THE GREAT LAWMAN, BATMAN?? HAS HE A MASTER PLAN TO COPE WITH THIS NEW THREAT???
OUR FIRST BREAK, BATMAN! THIS IS MRS. MARCY. HER SON, BEN, LEFT HOME, SAID HE WAS JOINING THE ARMY. BUT SHE SPOTTED HIM AS ONE OF THOSE WHO HELD UP THE BONDED WAREHOUSE LAST WEEK!
I WAS THERE, ON THE STREET! I SAW HIM RUN OUT WITH THE OTHERS! MY OWN SON! (SOB)

CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT HELP US, MRS. MARCY?
YES! (SOB) GO TO THE ACME GARAGE! SEE A MAN NAMED WEBSTER! MY BEN BECAME VERY FRIENDLY WITH HIM, SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT HOME! I WARNED BEN TO STAY AWAY FROM THIS WEBSTER, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN-- (SOB!)
5

THAT EVENING, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN REVERT TO THEIR ROLES AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE WEBSTER IN DISGUISE!
YES, DICK--AN UNDERCOVER JOB IS CALLED FOR! I'M GOING TO JOIN THIS NEW ORGANIZATION, IF I CAN! AND MY FIRST STEP IS TO DISGUISE MY FEATURES WITH MAKE-UP!
DISGUISES

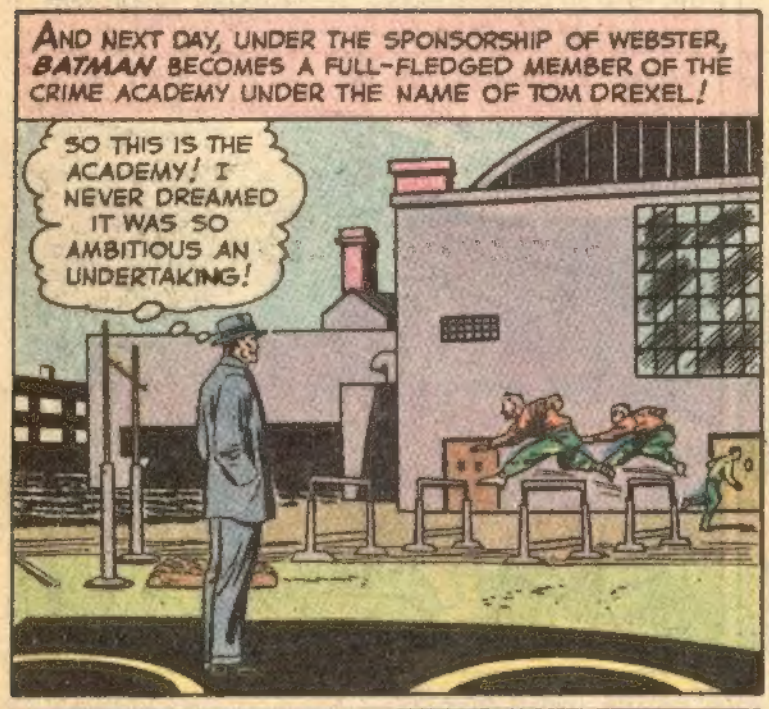
BUT YOU JUST CAN'T GO AND ASK WEBSTER ABOUT BEN MARCY! HE MAY BE SUSPICIOUS-- HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU AT ALL!
HE WON'T HAVE TO, THE WAY I'M PLAYING IT! I'M CALLING ON MR. WEBSTER AT HIS HOME!

AND LATE THAT NIGHT, IN THE HOME OF JOE WEBSTER...
ALL RIGHT, WEBSTER-- OUT OF BED! YOU'VE GOT ONE MINUTE TO LEAD ME TO YOUR HIDDEN WALL-SAFE!
A HOLD-UP! BUT HOW DID YOU EVER GET THROUGH MY INTRICATE BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM?

YOU MEAN YOUR CLUMSY BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM! COME ON, NOW--I'M A BUSY MAN!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS! MY WIFE-- THE SERVANTS WILL HEAR YOU, PHONE THE POLICE! BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHING IN MY SAFE!

YOUR WIFE'S AWAY! IT'S THE SERVANTS' NIGHT OUT! BESIDES, I'VE CUT YOUR PHONE WIRES! AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT TEN GRAND IN YOUR SAFE-- YOU ALWAYS KEEP THE PAYROLL THERE, RATHER THAN IN THE OFFICE!
YOU'RE THOROUGH! VERY THOROUGH! AND SMART! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME ON THIS CHICKEN-FEED, KID--YOU'VE GOT TALENT!

I CAN PUT YOU ONTO SOMETHING GOOD! YOU'D BE A NATURAL! AND YOU WOULDN'T BOTHER WITH THE SMALL STUFF-- YOU'D MAKE REAL DOUGH!
TALK FAST, MISTER! AND YOU BETTER MAKE SENSE!
IT WORKED! I'M IN!
6


AND NEXT DAY, UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF WEBSTER, BATMAN BECOMES A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE CRIME ACADEMY UNDER THE NAME OF TOM DREXEL!
SO THIS IS THE ACADEMY! I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS SO AMBITIOUS AN UNDERTAKING!

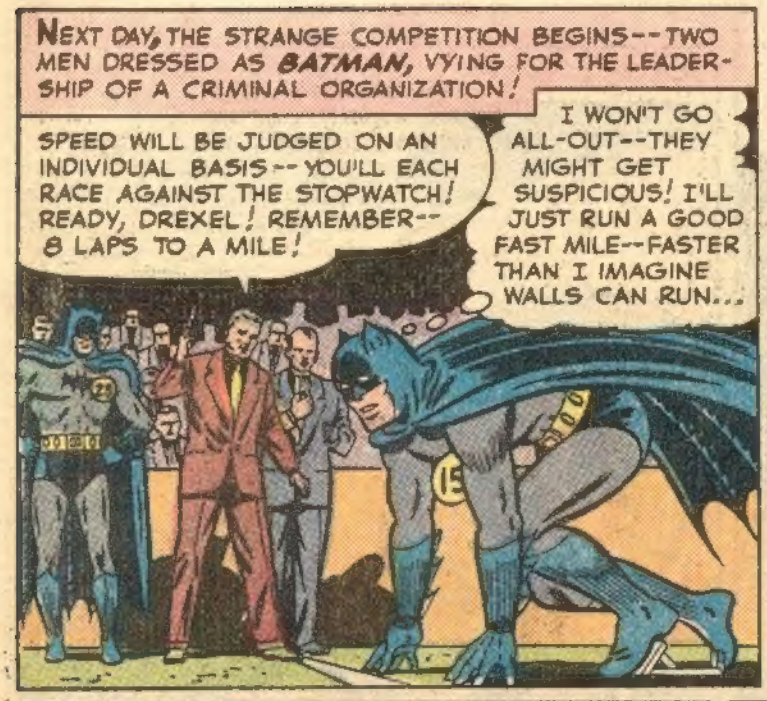
AND AS DAYS PASS...
I CAN'T BRING THE POLICE IN YET! THERE'S MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LOOT HIDDEN SOMEWHERE HERE! I'VE GOT TO PLAY IT LIKE THIS UNTIL I CAN FIND IT!

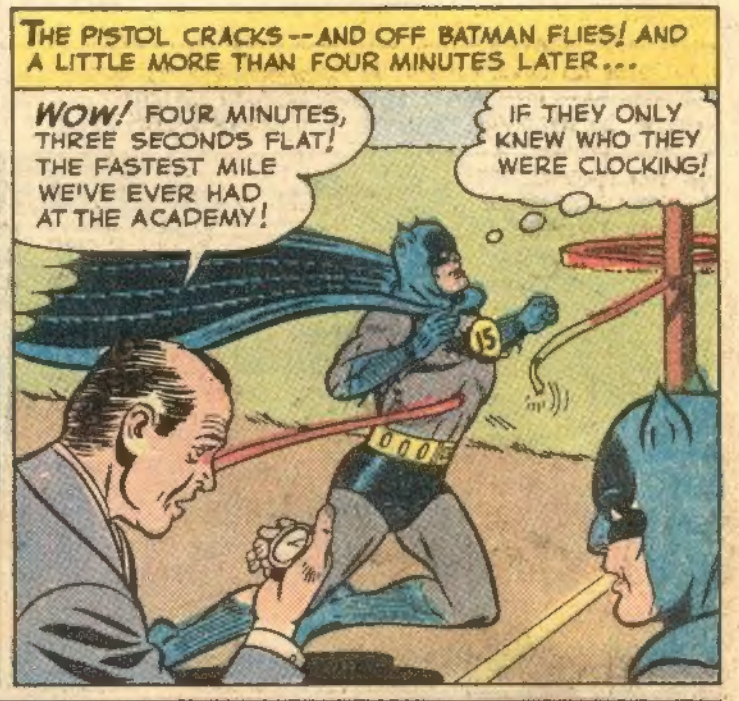
NEXT MORNING, A SPECIAL MEETING IS HELD IN THE ACADEMY'S ASSEMBLY HALL...
AS YOU KNOW, IT IS TIME FOR A NEW LEADER TO BE SELECTED. AS IS OUR CUSTOM, HE WILL BE SELECTED FROM AMONG YOU--ON THE BASIS OF AN ALL-AROUND COMPETITION...
THIS IS MY CHANCE! THE LEADER HAS ACCESS TO THE FUNDS! IF I CAN WIN THIS COMPETITION, I CAN BRING AN END TO THE ACADEMY!

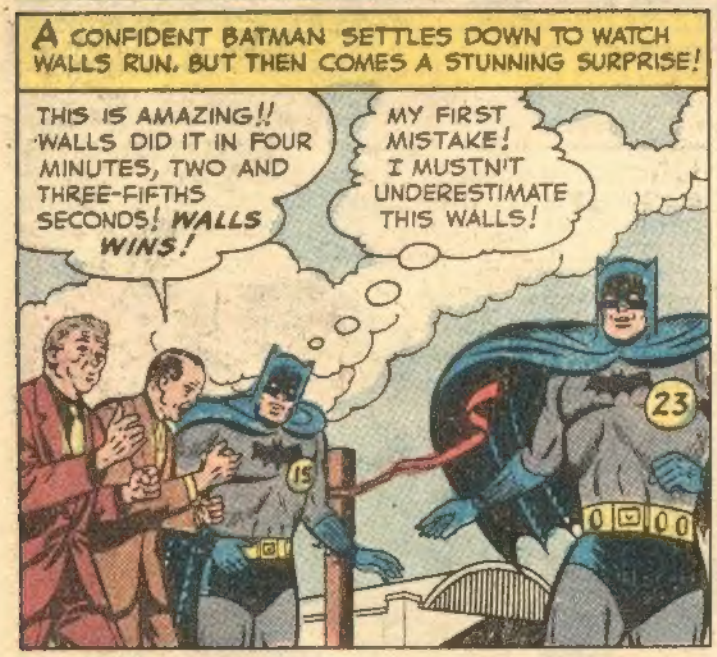
DEVOTING ALL HIS ENERGY TO THE COMPETITION, THE DISGUISED BATMAN IS EASILY ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING ASPIRANTS! THEN...
YOU TWO MEN HAVE ELIMINATED ALL THE REST. FROM NOW ON, THIS WILL BE A CONTEST BETWEEN YOU--THE WINNER TO BE OUR LEADER!
THIS FELLOW WALLS HAS SHOWN SURPRISING ABILITY. BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEST HIM...

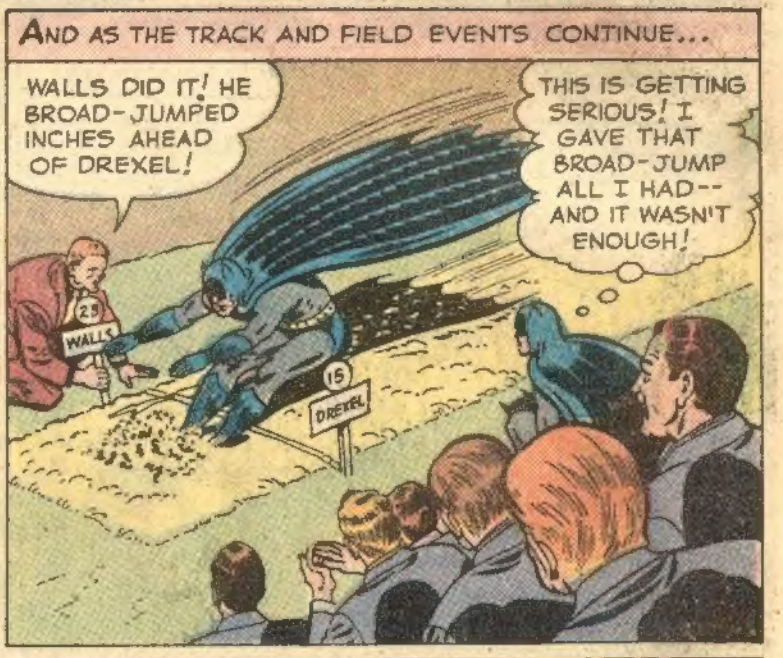
BECAUSE OUR MASTER PLAN TO ELIMINATE BATMAN CALLS FOR OUR LEADER TO IMPERSONATE HIM, YOU WILL BOTH WEAR BATMAN UNIFORMS DURING THE CONTEST!
I GET IT! YOU WANT TO SEE WHICH OF US CAN HANDLE HIMSELF BEST IN THE STRANGE UNIFORM!
IF THEY ONLY KNEW!

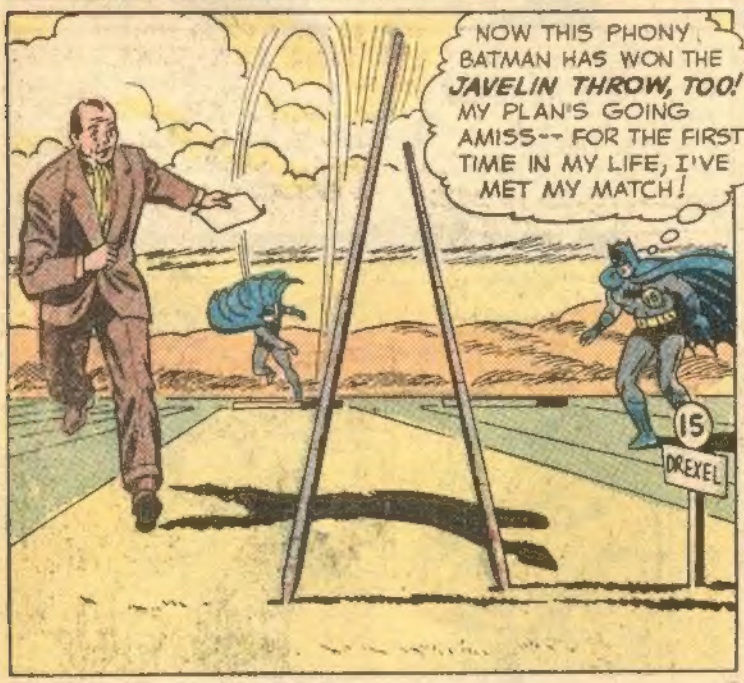
WE'LL IDENTIFY YOU WITH THESE NUMBERS PINNED TO YOUR CHESTS. DREXEL, YOUR NUMBER IS 15--WALLS, YOURS IS 23...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE WEARING A BATMAN UNIFORM! HOW ABOUT YOU, DREXEL?
OH, NOTHING EVER SURPRISES ME!
23
15

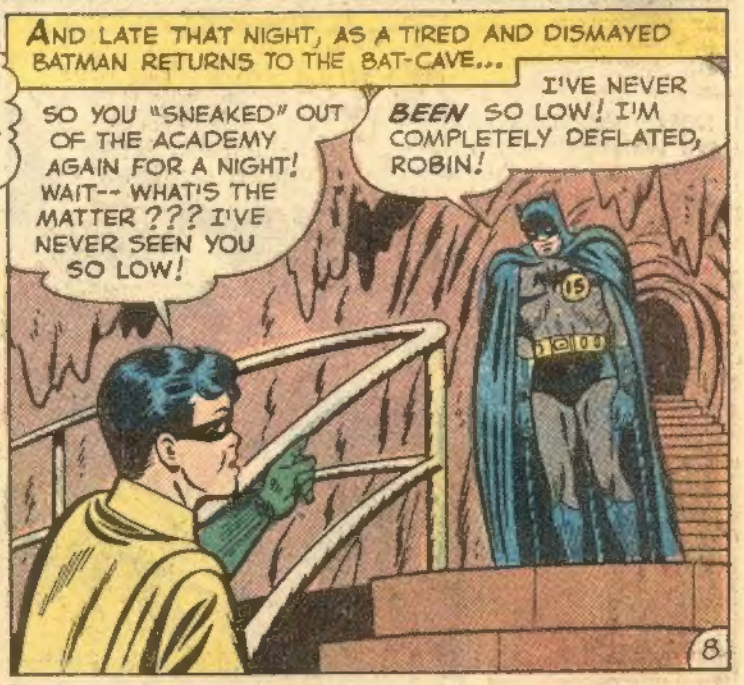

NEXT DAY, THE STRANGE COMPETITION BEGINS--TWO MEN DRESSED AS BATMAN, VYING FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION!
SPEED WILL BE JUDGED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS--YOU'LL EACH RACE AGAINST THE STOPWATCH! READY, DREXEL! REMEMBER--8 LAPS TO A MILE!
I WON'T GO ALL-OUT--THEY MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS! I'LL JUST RUN A GOOD FAST MILE--FASTER THAN I IMAGINE WALLS CAN RUN...


THE PISTOL CRACKS--AND OFF BATMAN FLIES! AND A LITTLE MORE THAN FOUR MINUTES LATER...
WOW! FOUR MINUTES, THREE SECONDS FLAT! THE FASTEST MILE WE'VE EVER HAD AT THE ACADEMY!
IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHO THEY WERE CLOCKING!


A CONFIDENT BATMAN SETTLES DOWN TO WATCH WALLS RUN. BUT THEN COMES A STUNNING SURPRISE!
THIS IS AMAZING!! WALLS DID IT IN FOUR MINUTES, TWO AND THREE-FIFTHS SECONDS! WALLS WINS!
MY FIRST MISTAKE! I MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS WALLS!


AND AS THE TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS CONTINUE...
WALLS DID IT! HE BROAD-JUMPED INCHES AHEAD OF DREXEL!
THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS! I GAVE THAT BROAD-JUMP ALL I HAD--AND IT WASN'T ENOUGH!
WALLS
DREXEL


NOW THIS PHONY BATMAN HAS WON THE JAVELIN THROW, TOO! MY PLAN'S GOING AMISS--FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'VE MET MY MATCH!
DREXEL


AND LATE THAT NIGHT, AS A TIRED AND DISMAYED BATMAN RETURNS TO THE BAT-CAVE...
SO YOU "SNEAKED" OUT OF THE ACADEMY AGAIN FOR A NIGHT! WAIT--WHAT'S THE MATTER??? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO LOW!
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO LOW! I'M COMPLETELY DEFLATED, ROBIN!
8

THEN NEXT DAY, AS THE REAL BATMAN DOGGEDLY REFUSES TO GIVE UP HOPE...

MAYBE I CAN EVEN THINGS TODAY! WE'RE TAKING *INTELLIGENCE TESTS*-- I SHOULDN'T LOSE ANY OF THOSE!

SOON AFTER, AS THE FIRST TEST BEGINS...

THE FIRST TEST WILL COMBINE MANUAL DEXTERITY AND MENTAL COORDINATION! EACH OF YOU WILL BE GIVEN A GIANT JIGSAW PUZZLE TO PUT TOGETHER! THIS WILL BE A RACE AGAINST TIME!

WALLS

FOURTH (23) TIONAL BANK

DREXEL

15

I'M LOSING AGAIN! THAT WALLS PERSON IS UNCANNY!

TEST AFTER TEST FINDS WALLS THE VICTOR! AND AS THEY CONTINUE...

NOW-- MATHEMATICS! WE WANT TO WATCH HOW YOU USE YOUR SLIDE-RULES-- SO WE'VE HAD THESE GIANT ONES CONSTRUCTED!

DREX

15

BOTH CONTESTANTS ARE GIVEN A PROBLEM! SWIFTLY THEY MANIPULATE THEIR SLIDE-RULES, AND THEN...

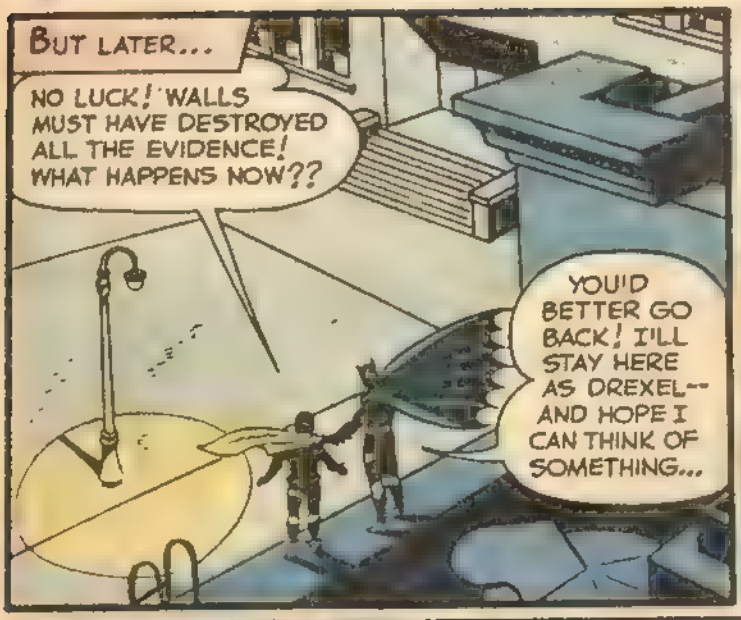
THE ANSWER IS 458, TO THE 7TH POWER!

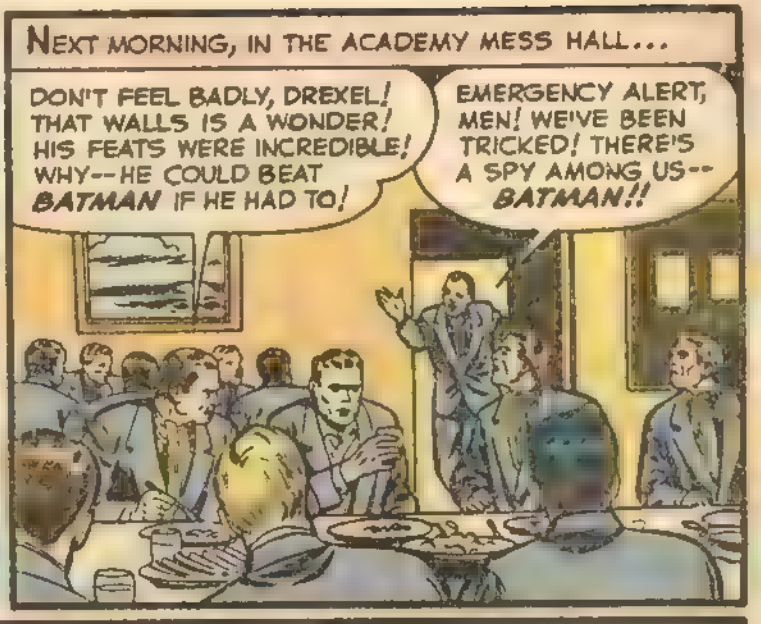
CORRECT! I GUESS THAT DOES IT, MEN! WALLS HAS CLEARLY SHOWN HIS SUPERIORITY! HE'S THE MAN QUALIFIED TO PLAY THE PART OF THE REAL BATMAN!

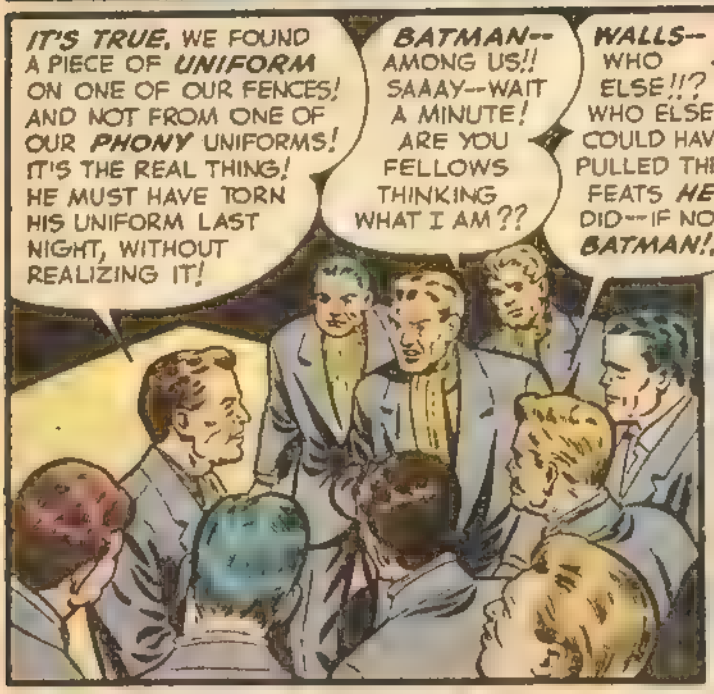
DRE

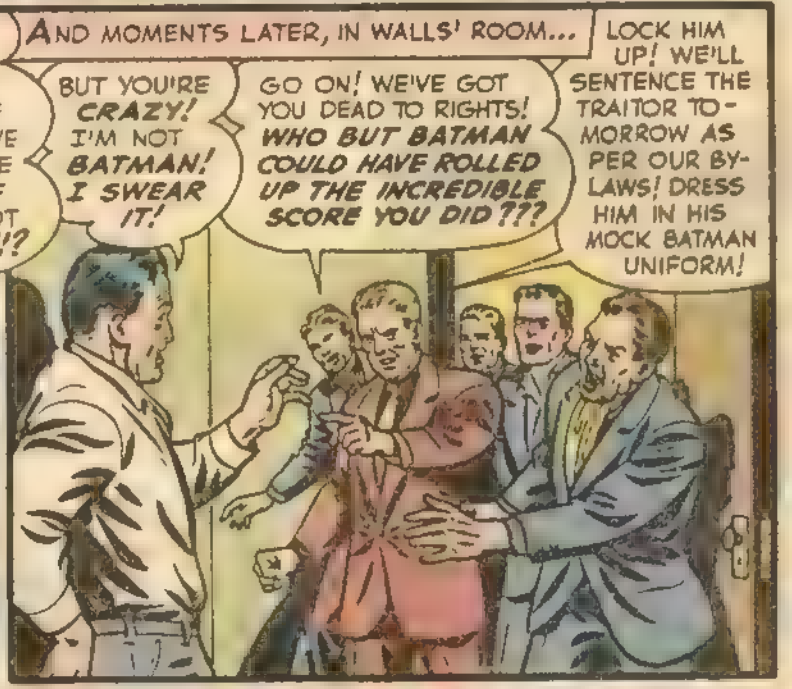
9

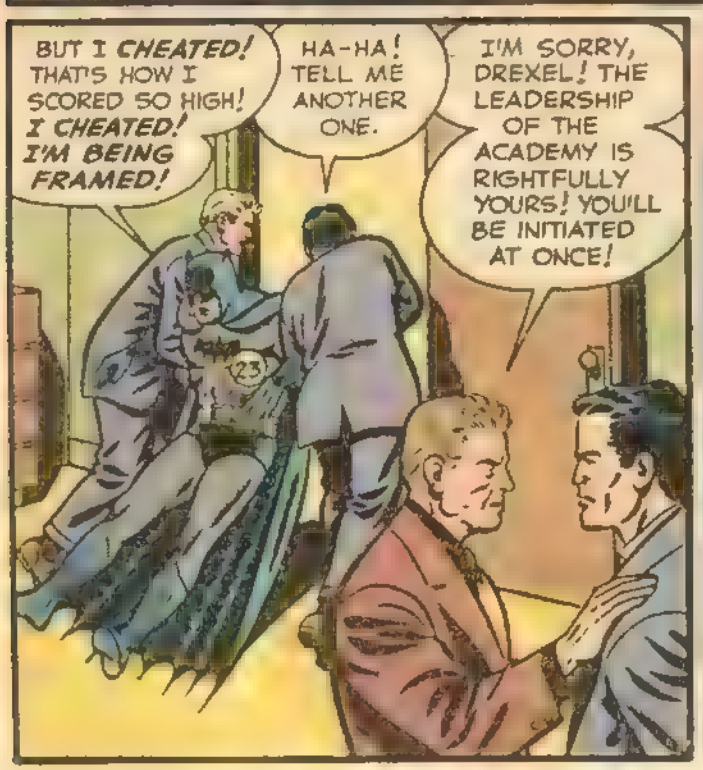
THE WITIATION CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW... THEN WALLS WILL BE OUR NEW LEADER. TOUGH LUCK, DREXEL-- BUT YOU WERE OUTCLASSED!
HE HAD THE RIGHT ANSWER-- BUT COULD NEVER GET IT ON THESE SLIDE-RULES! HE'D NEED AN LL RULE! HE'S TRICKED THEM-- AND ME!
WALLS... REPORT TO OPERATIONS BUILDING! LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALL...
WALLS WON'T HEAR THAT--HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CAMPUS! I THINK I'LL TAKE THAT CALL--IT MIGHT PROVE INTERESTING!
EXIT
AND AT THE OPERATIONS BUILDING...
CHICAGO CALLING, WALLS-- TAKE IT IN BOOTH 5...
SIMPLE ENOUGH TO CHANGE NUMBERS ON MY CHEST AND PASS MYSELF AS WALLS!
SURE I WON... JUST NOW!
HMMM--I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN...
AND THEY NEVER GOT ONTO THE TRICK! HA-HA! I TOLD YA! THE PHONY STOP-WATCH--THE SPRINGS IN YER JUMPIN' SHOES--THE JET-POWERED JAVELIN. HA-HA!
AND THAT NIGHT, IN THE BATCAVE...
SO! HE SWITCHED STOP-WATCHES WHEN THE TIMER WASN'T LOOKING! NO WONDER HE RAN SO FAST A MILE! AND NO WONDER HE JUMPED SO FAR, OR THREW THE JAVELIN SO FAR! IT WAS ALL A FRAUD!
YES! AND SO WERE THE INTELLIGENCE TESTS! HE SNEAKED A LOOK AT THEM, THE NIGHT BEFORE! BUT THE TROUBLE IS, I CAN'T PROVE A THING!
BUT THE MAN ON THE PHONE--HE TOLD YOU WALLS WAS DOING ALL THIS!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT MAN WAS! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FIND SOME OF WALLS' ILLEGAL PROPS! THEN I CAN ACCUSE HIM OF CHEATING WITHOUT BEING HOWLED DOWN! COME ON, ROBIN--WE'RE GOING TO SCOUT WALLS' ROOM!
10

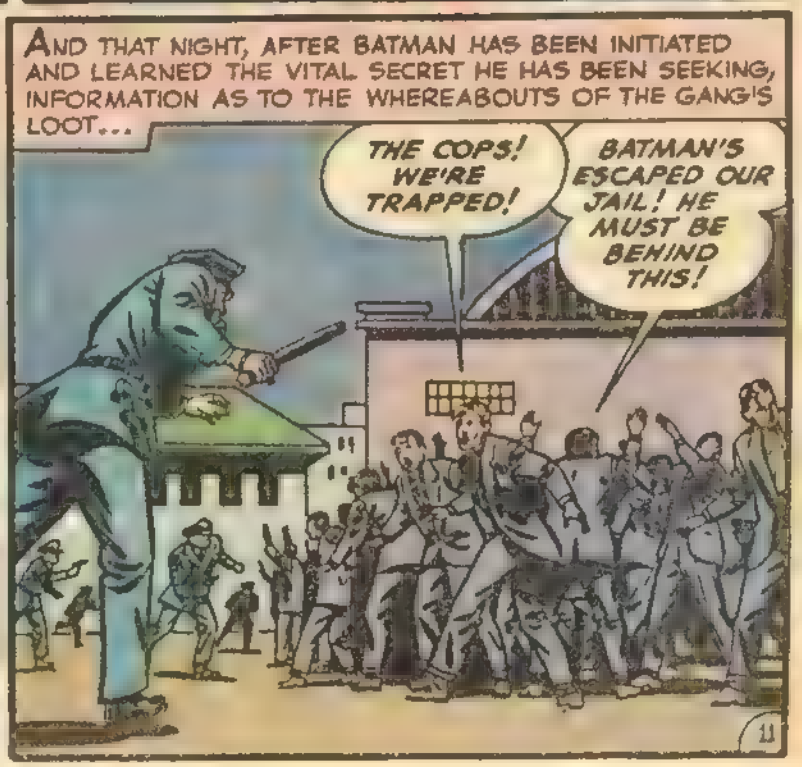

BUT LATER...
NO LUCK! WALLS MUST HAVE DESTROYED ALL THE EVIDENCE! WHAT HAPPENS NOW??
YOU'D BETTER GO BACK! I'LL STAY HERE AS DREXEL--AND HOPE I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING...


NEXT MORNING, IN THE ACADEMY MESS HALL...
DON'T FEEL BADLY, DREXEL! THAT WALLS IS A WONDER! HIS FEATS WERE INCREDIBLE! WHY--HE COULD BEAT BATMAN IF HE HAD TO!
EMERGENCY ALERT, MEN! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED! THERE'S A SPY AMONG US--BATMAN!!


IT'S TRUE. WE FOUND A PIECE OF UNIFORM ON ONE OF OUR FENCES! AND NOT FROM ONE OF OUR PHONY UNIFORMS! IT'S THE REAL THING! HE MUST HAVE TORN HIS UNIFORM LAST NIGHT, WITHOUT REALIZING IT!
BATMAN--AMONG US!! SAAAY--WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU FELLOWS THINKING WHAT I AM??
WALLS--WHO ELSE!!? WHO ELSE COULD HAVE PULLED THE FEATS HE DID--IF NOT BATMAN!!?


AND MOMENTS LATER, IN WALLS' ROOM...
BUT YOU'RE CRAZY! I'M NOT BATMAN! I SWEAR IT!
GO ON! WE'VE GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS! WHO BUT BATMAN COULD HAVE ROLLED UP THE INCREDIBLE SCORE YOU DID???
LOCK HIM UP! WE'LL SENTENCE THE TRAITOR TO-MORROW AS PER OUR BY-LAWS! DRESS HIM IN HIS MOCK BATMAN UNIFORM!


BUT I CHEATED! THAT'S HOW I SCORED SO HIGH! I CHEATED! I'M BEING FRAMED!
HA-HA! TELL ME ANOTHER ONE.
I'M SORRY, DREXEL! THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ACADEMY IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS! YOU'LL BE INITIATED AT ONCE!


AND THAT NIGHT, AFTER BATMAN HAS BEEN INITIATED AND LEARNED THE VITAL SECRET HE HAS BEEN SEEKING, INFORMATION AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE GANG'S LOOT...
THE COPS! WE'RE TRAPPED!
BATMAN'S ESCAPED OUR JAIL! HE MUST BE BEHIND THIS!

MEANWHILE...

GOTHAM CITY JAIL WILL BE SAFER, WALLS! I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU--SOME ENRAGED STUDENT MIGHT TAKE A SHOT AT YOU! THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING THIS WAY!

THEY THOUGHT *I* WAS YOU! BUT I KNEW DIFFERENT! YOU MUST BE *DREXEL*--YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER!

SUDDENLY THE ENRAGED WALLS TURNS INTO A WILD-CAT! A FIERCE BATTLE SWAYS ACROSS THE LEDGE! AND THEN...

SOMEONE HAS WON! *BUT WHO??* I CAN'T SEE FROM HERE!

BATMAN--IS THAT YOU??

A LONE FIGURE DESCENDS SLOWLY FROM THE LEDGE! ROBIN, WAITING TENSELY, SUDDENLY FREEZES AT WHAT HE SEES!

THAT NUMBER! *IT'S WALLS!!* HE'S KILLED BATMAN! HE'S KILLED *BATMAN!*

12

BUT THEN,

TAKE IT EASY, ROBIN! JUST A GAG--IT'S ME! I THOUGHT THESE NUMERALS MIGHT LOOK NICE IN OUR HALL OF TROPHIES!

WOW--YOU SURE FOOLED *ME!* YOU'VE BEEN FULL OF TRICKS LATELY--LIKE PLANTING THAT PIECE OF BATMAN UNIFORM BECAUSE YOU KNEW EVERYONE'D SUSPECT WALLS! THERE WAS A FELLOW MADE HIMSELF *TOO* GOOD--AND ENDED UP *TOO BAD!*

23

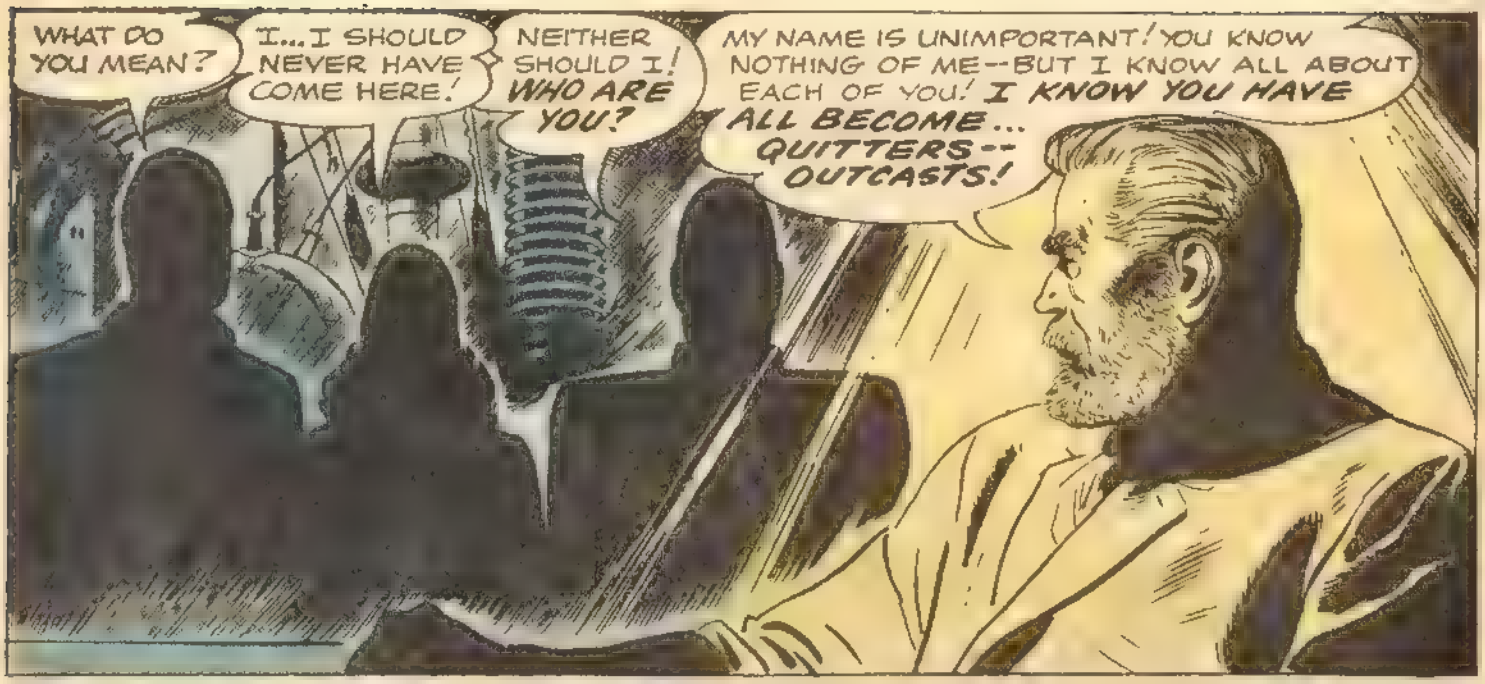
The End

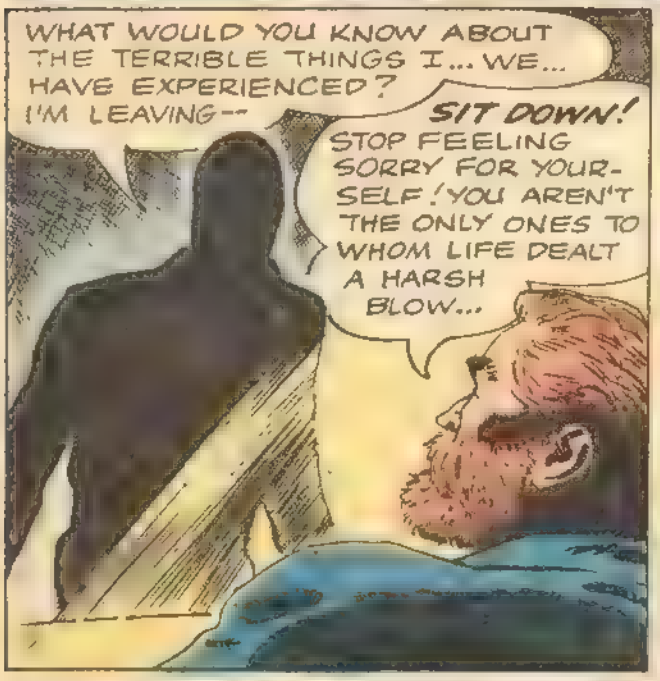
FOR BLAZING BATTLE ACTION!

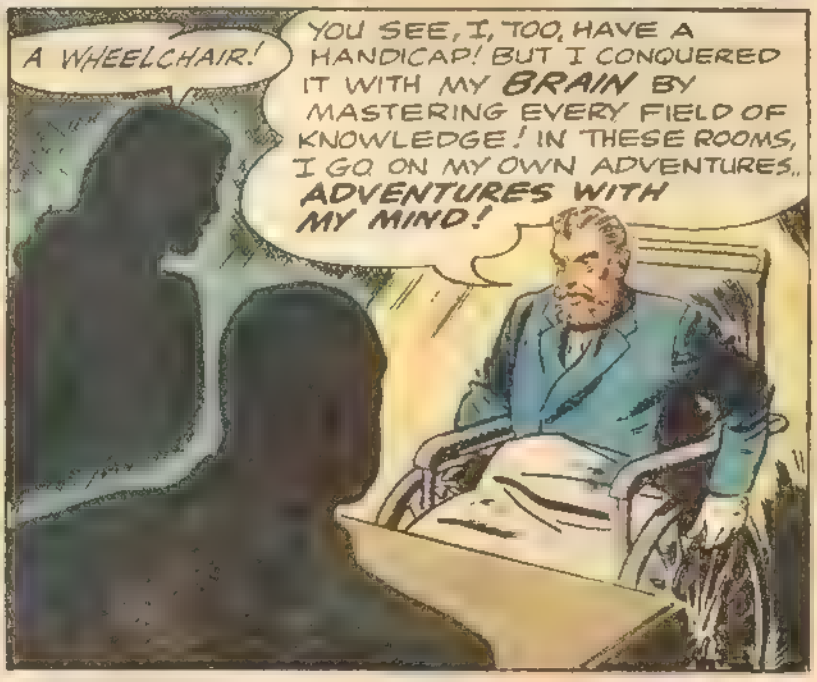
48 pages ONLY 25¢

ON SALE NOV. 9

YOU ARE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE STRANGEST MEETINGS EVER CONVENED--A JOINING OF THE FOUR MOST UNUSUAL PEOPLE ON EARTH! SIT QUIETLY IN THE SHADOWS OF THIS CLANDESTINE CONFERENCE AND OBSERVE IT WELL! FOR FROM IT SHALL SOON BE BORN..
THE DOOM PATROL
IN THE SUB-STRUCTURE OF A STATELY BUILDING IN A BUSTLING CITY...
YOU THREE ARE VICTIMS OF A CRUEL AND FANTASTIC FATE! I SUMMONED YOU HERE TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHEAT THAT FATE BY OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE ADVENTURES MORE INCREDIBLE THAN ANY HUMANS HAVE EVER KNOWN!
SCRIPT: ARNOLD DRAKE
ART: BRUNO PREMIANI
FROM: MY GREATEST ADVENTURE #80 (JUNE, 1963).

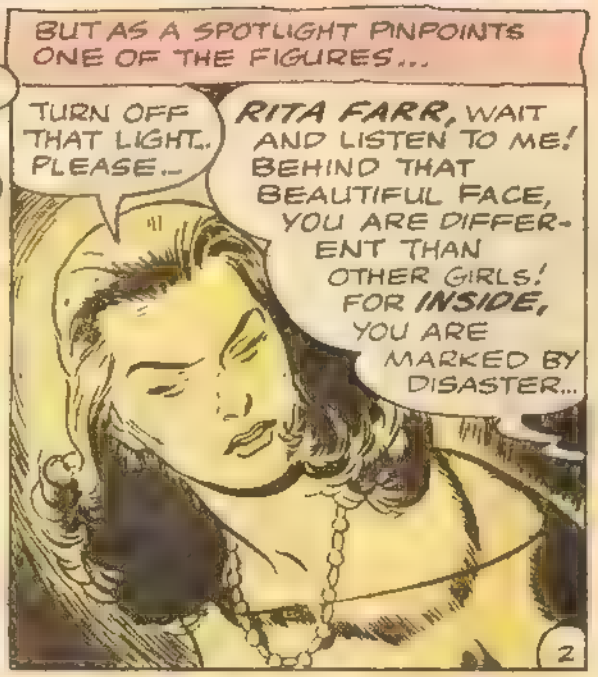

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I...I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE!
NEITHER SHOULD I! WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS UNIMPORTANT! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF ME--BUT I KNOW ALL ABOUT EACH OF YOU! I KNOW YOU HAVE ALL BECOME... QUITTERS-- OUTCASTS!

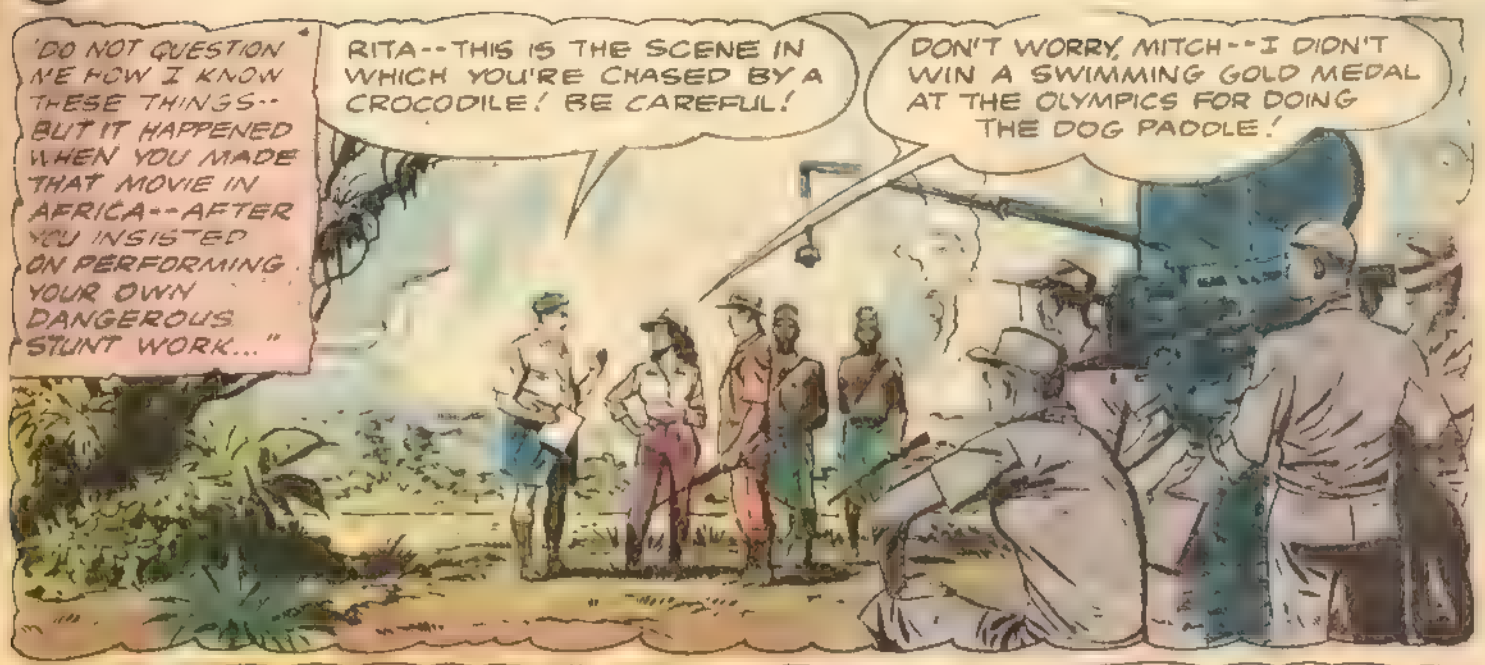

WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TERRIBLE THINGS I... WE... HAVE EXPERIENCED? I'M LEAVING--
SIT DOWN! STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF! YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONES TO WHOM LIFE DEALT A HARSH BLOW...

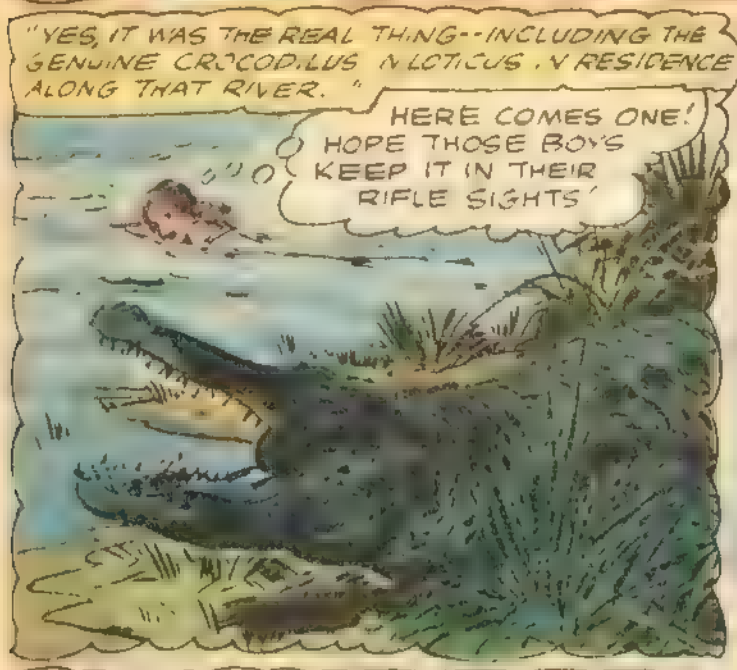

A WHEELCHAIR!
YOU SEE, I, TOO, HAVE A HANDICAP! BUT I CONQUERED IT WITH MY BRAIN BY MASTERING EVERY FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE! IN THESE ROOMS, I GO ON MY OWN ADVENTURES... ADVENTURES WITH MY MIND!

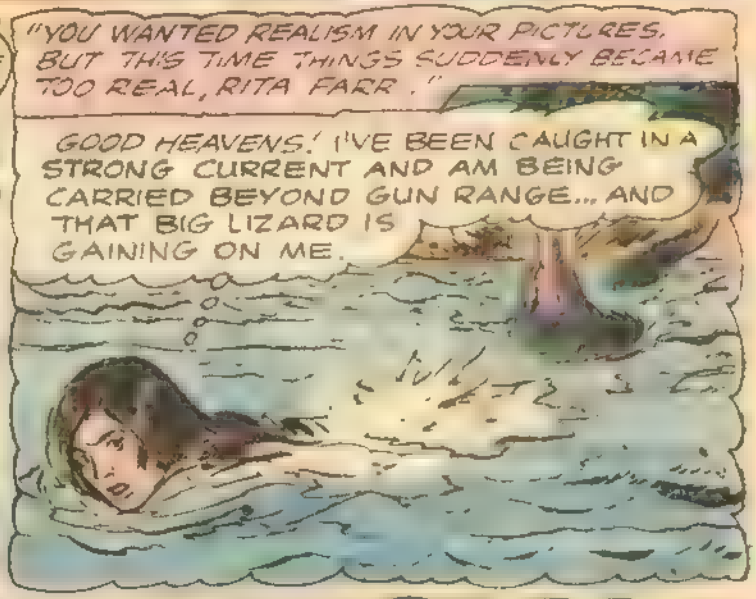
BUT THERE ARE ADVENTURES IN WHICH I'M UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE--CATASTROPHES TO BE CHECKED... EVIL TO BE FOUGHT... PEOPLE TO BE HELPED! THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU!

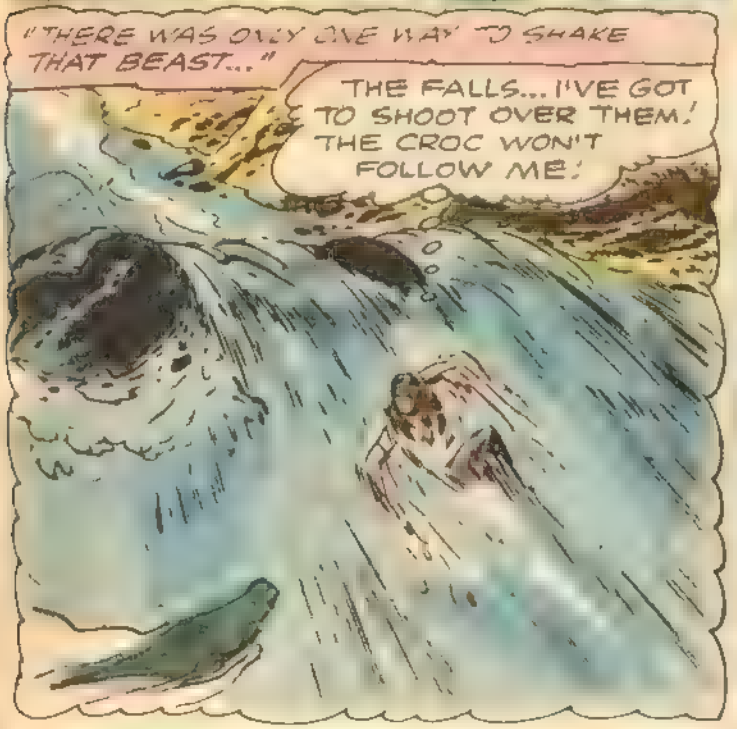
NO! MY ADVENTURING DAYS ARE OVER!
COUNT ME OUT-- I'VE HAD IT!
THIS IS UPSETTING ME... I WANT TO LEAVE!

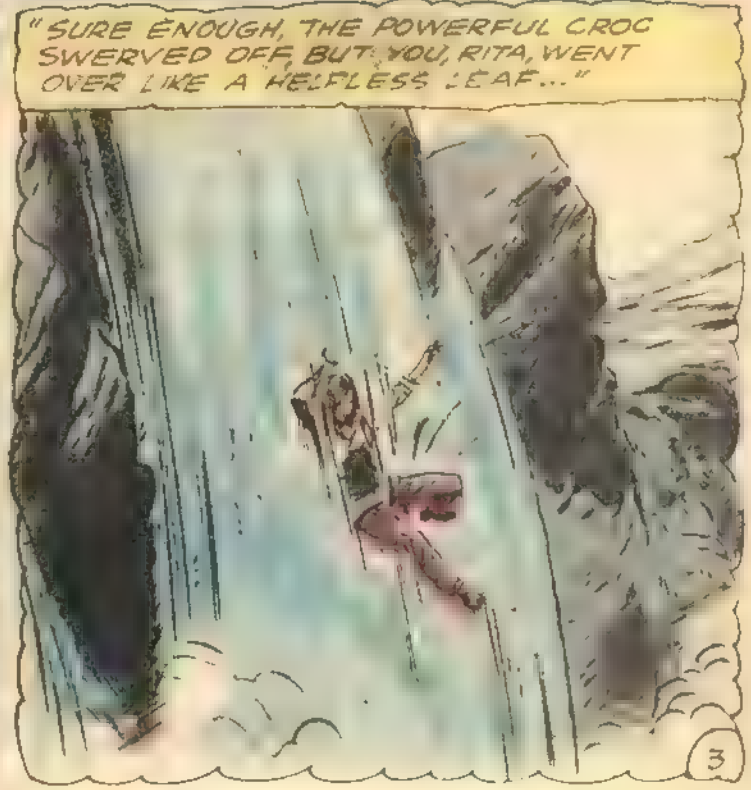

BUT AS A SPOTLIGHT PINPOINTS ONE OF THE FIGURES...
TURN OFF THAT LIGHT.. PLEASE...
RITA FARR, WAIT AND LISTEN TO ME! BEHIND THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE, YOU ARE DIFFERENT THAN OTHER GIRLS! FOR INSIDE, YOU ARE MARKED BY DISASTER...
2

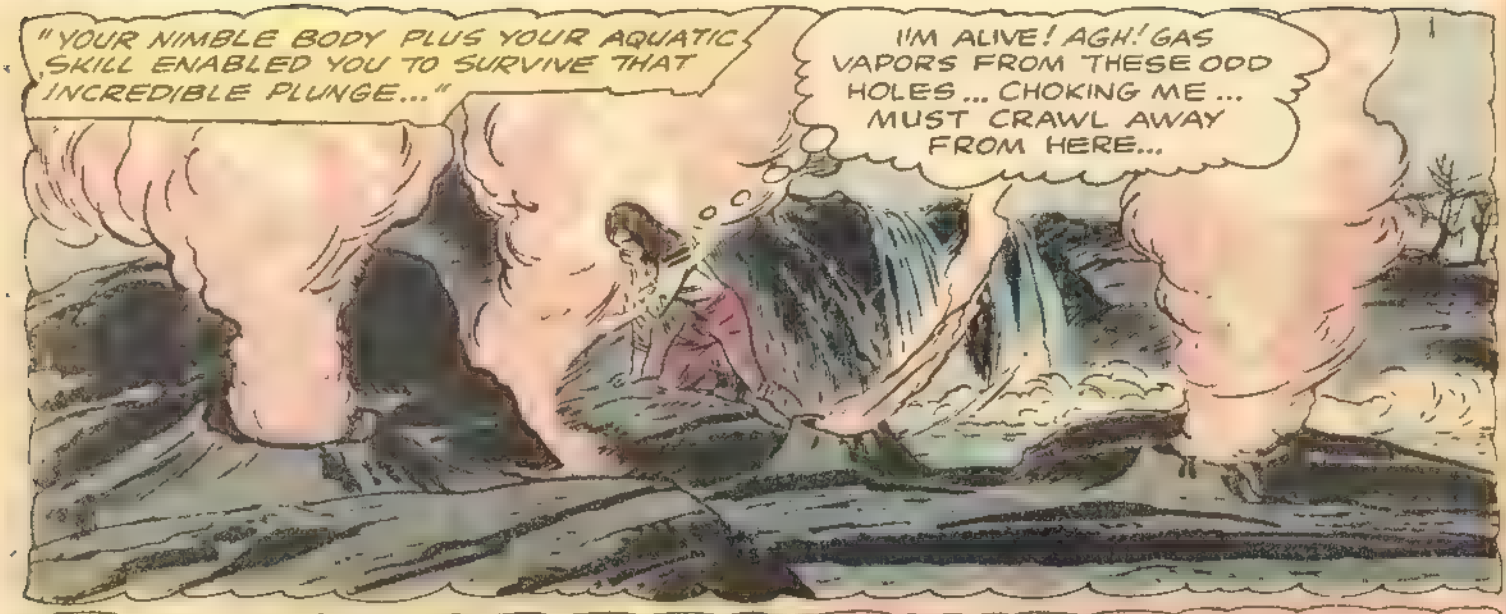

"DO NOT QUESTION ME HOW I KNOW THESE THINGS-- BUT IT HAPPENED WHEN YOU MADE THAT MOVIE IN AFRICA--AFTER YOU INSISTED ON PERFORMING YOUR OWN DANGEROUS STUNT WORK..."
RITA--THIS IS THE SCENE IN WHICH YOU'RE CHASED BY A CROCODILE! BE CAREFUL!
DON'T WORRY, MITCH--I DIDN'T WIN A SWIMMING GOLD MEDAL AT THE OLYMPICS FOR DOING THE DOG PADDLE!

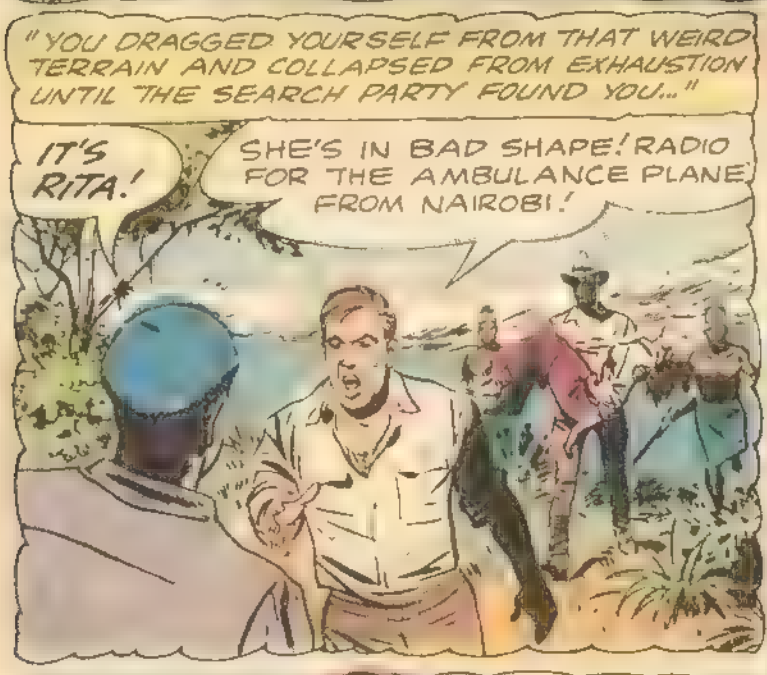

"YES, IT WAS THE REAL THING--INCLUDING THE GENUINE CROCODILUS NILOTICUS IN RESIDENCE ALONG THAT RIVER."
HERE COMES ONE! HOPE THOSE BOYS KEEP IT IN THEIR RIFLE SIGHTS!


"YOU WANTED REALISM IN YOUR PICTURES, BUT THIS TIME THINGS SUDDENLY BECAME TOO REAL, RITA FARR."
GOOD HEAVENS! I'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN A STRONG CURRENT AND AM BEING CARRIED BEYOND GUN RANGE... AND THAT BIG LIZARD IS GAINING ON ME.


"THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO SHAKE THAT BEAST..."
THE FALLS... I'VE GOT TO SHOOT OVER THEM! THE CROC WON'T FOLLOW ME!

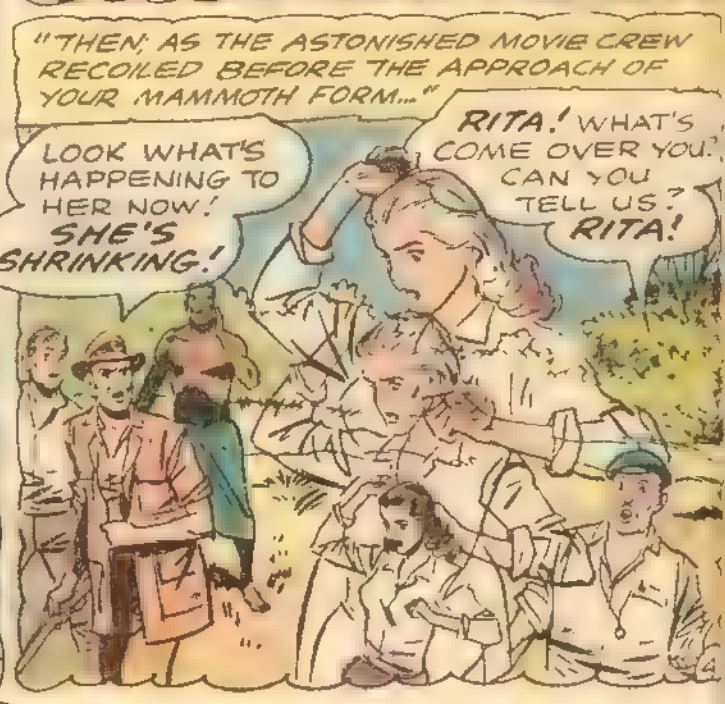

"SURE ENOUGH, THE POWERFUL CROC SWERVED OFF, BUT YOU, RITA, WENT OVER LIKE A HELPLESS LEAF..."
3


"YOUR NIMBLE BODY PLUS YOUR AQUATIC SKILL ENABLED YOU TO SURVIVE THAT INCREDIBLE PLUNGE..."
I'M ALIVE! AGH! GAS VAPORS FROM THESE ODD HOLES... CHOKING ME... MUST CRAWL AWAY FROM HERE...


"YOU DRAGGED YOURSELF FROM THAT WEIRD TERRAIN AND COLLAPSED FROM EXHAUSTION UNTIL THE SEARCH PARTY FOUND YOU..."
IT'S RITA!
SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE! RADIO FOR THE AMBULANCE PLANE FROM NAIROBI!

"FOR DAYS, YOU LAY STRICKEN WITH AN ILLNESS NO DOCTOR COULD DIAGNOSE, BUT AFTER AWHILE YOU RECOVERED..."
WE'RE READY TO SHOOT OUR NEXT SCENES! WHERE'S RITA?
FOR THE LUVVA MIKE-- LOOK!
GIMP GIMP GIMP

RITA! SHE'S BECOME A--GIANT!
HELP ME... HELP ME... SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP!
LOOK, OUT!


"THEN, AS THE ASTONISHED MOVIE CREW RECOILED BEFORE THE APPROACH OF YOUR MAMMOTH FORM..."
LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER NOW! SHE'S SHRINKING!
RITA! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? CAN YOU TELL US? RITA!

"THE AMAZING PHENOMENON CONTINUED UNTIL..."
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT... WHAT CAN BE THE EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS?
A NATIVE WITCH DOCTOR SUPPLIED THE ANSWER! THOSE UNDERGROUND CHEMICAL VAPORS YOU BREATHED ON THE BANK OF THE FALLS WERE THE CAUSE OF YOUR INCREDIBLE EXPANSION AND REDUCTION!
IT'S ALL TRUE... AS YOU SAID! I COULDN'T CONTROL THIS TERRIBLE POWER! IT HAPPENED ANYWHERE... ANYTIME!
SO YOU GAVE UP YOUR CAREER...HID FROM THE WORLD OUT OF SHAME AND FEAR! BUT NOW, RITA, YOU HAVE LEARNED TO CONTROL THAT STRANGE POWER! NOW YOU CAN END YOUR SELF-EXILE!
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU! BUT YOU DON'T KNOW IF WE WANT TO FACE THE PUBLIC AGAIN!
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, TOO; LARRY TRAINOR! I KNOW HOW AND WHY YOU BECAME AN OUTSIDER--A STRANGE ONE!
"DISASTER STRUCK YOU AS YOU TESTED THE K-2F, THE EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET PLANE THAT FLEW HIGHER THAN ANY MANNED AIRCRAFT HAD EVER GONE..."
GYRO CONTROL'S JAMMED! CAN'T ADJUST THE GLIDE ANGLE! I'M GOING BEYOND MAXIMUM ALTITUDE...INTO SUB-ORBIT!
"YOU LOST GROUND CONTACT... BLACKED OUT! FOR HOURS, YOUR JET SKIMMED THROUGH THE STILL UNCHARTED WAVE BELTS OF INNER SPACE UNTIL IT SUDDENLY BEGAN TO NOSE DOWNWARD..."
K-2F
5

"YOU REVIVED IN TIME TO CRASH-LAND THE K-2F ON A DRY LAKE BED! AS YOU CLIMBED OUT SEEMINGLY UNHARMED..."

"IT'S A PLANE FROM THE BASE TO PICK ME UP! GOOD GRIEF! LOOK! ONE WHEEL'S DOWN! THE PILOT DOESN'T KNOW IT--HE'LL CRACK UP--!"

K-2F

"BUT AS YOU WATCHED HELPLESSLY, AN EXTRAORDINARY THING OCCURRED..."

A STRANGE DUPLICATE... EMERGING FROM MY OWN BODY!

"DEPRIVED OF YOUR STRENGTH, YOU COULD ONLY LOOK ON IN A KIND OF AMAZED STUPOR..."

IT'S PULLING THE OTHER WHEEL DOWN! HE'S GOING TO LAND OKAY!

K-2F

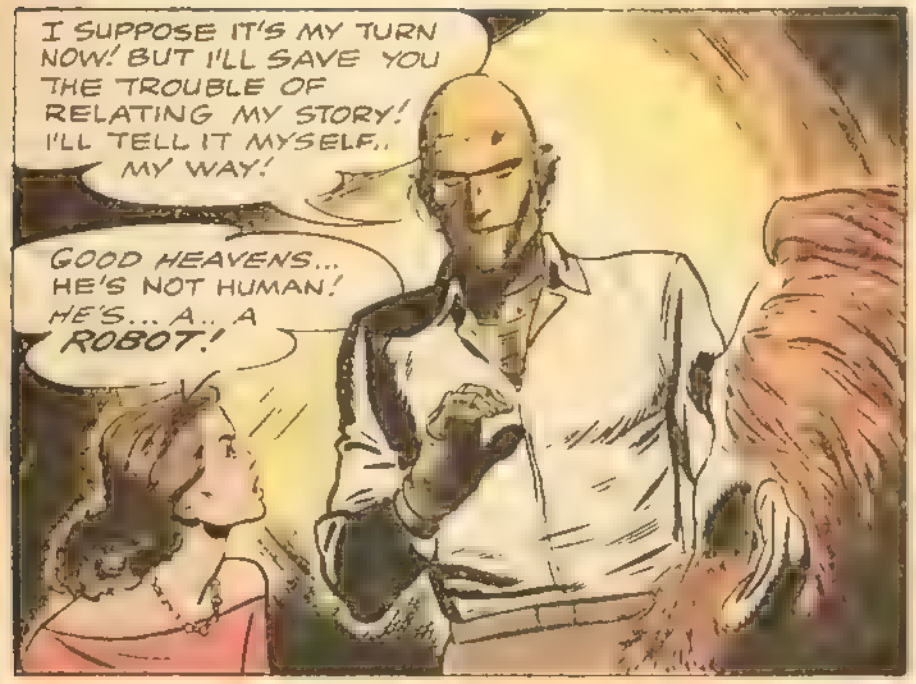
I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, LARRY, THAT UNKNOWN WAVE BELTS BOMBARDING YOUR BODY FLOATING IN SPACE WITHOUT ADEQUATE PROTECTION ARE WHAT CREATED THAT BIZARRE BEING--THAT *NEGATIVE MAN!*

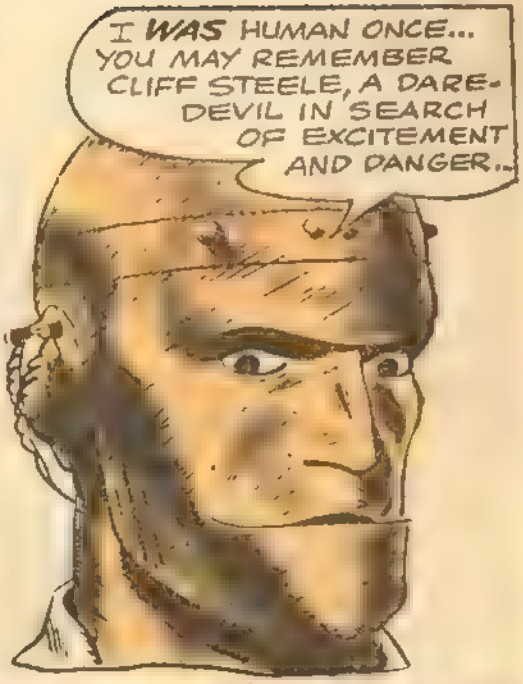
PERHAPS BUT WHAT YOU DON'T REALIZE IS THAT WHILE *NEGATIVE MAN* FUNCTIONS, I'M BARELY CONSCIOUS! AND IF HE DOESN'T RETURN WITHIN *60 SECONDS*... I *DIE!* HOW'D YOU LIKE TO LIVE WITH THAT?

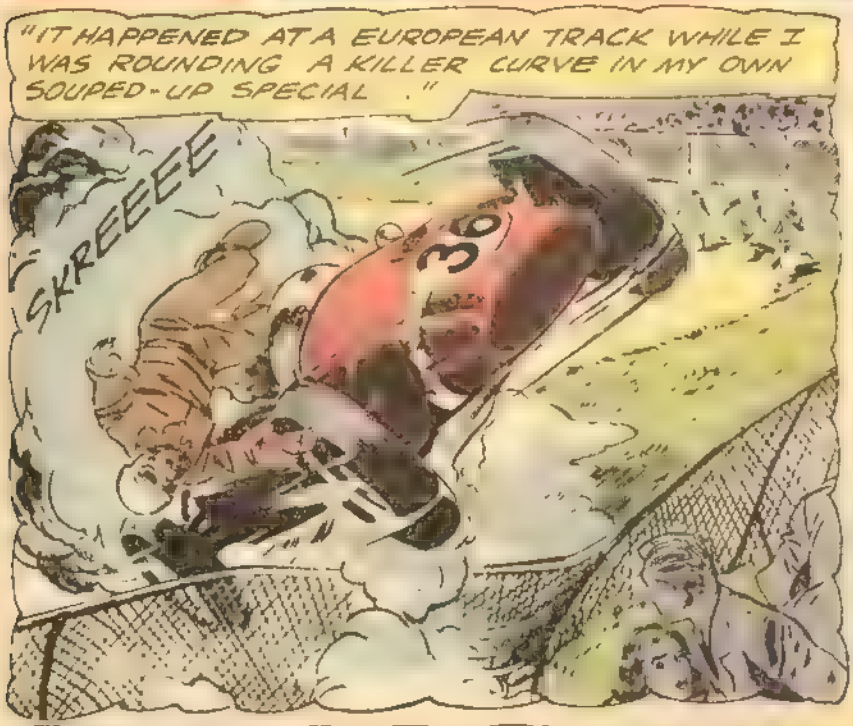
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL *NEGATIVE MAN* WITH YOUR WILL, LARRY--AND USE HIS GREAT POWERS FOR GOOD--INSTEAD OF RETREATING FROM LIFE AS YOU'VE DONE!

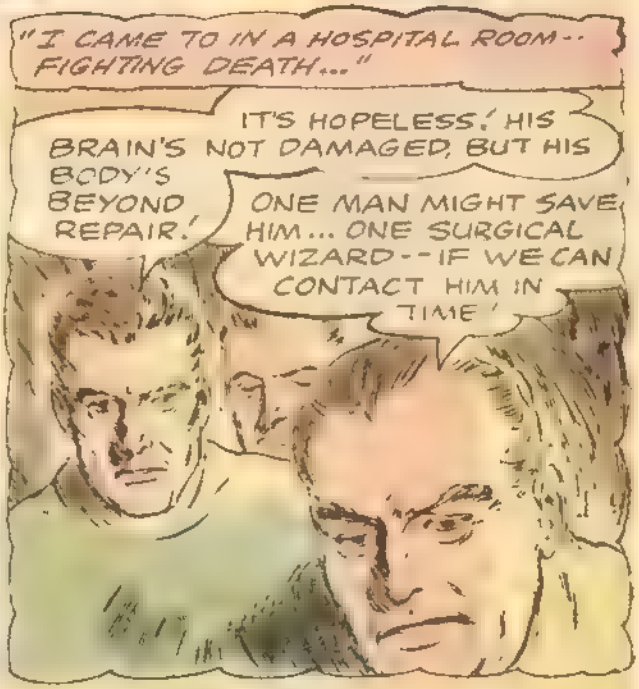
I WON'T DO IT! I WON'T--AND NOTHING ON EARTH WILL MAKE ME CHANGE MY MIND!

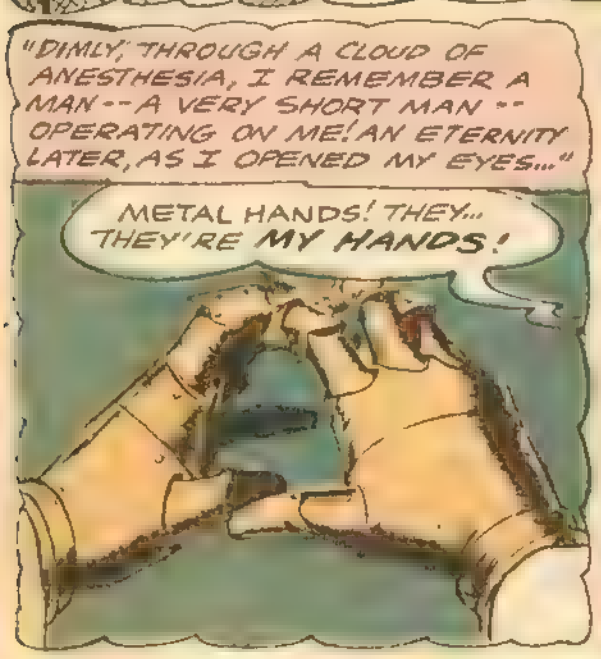
6

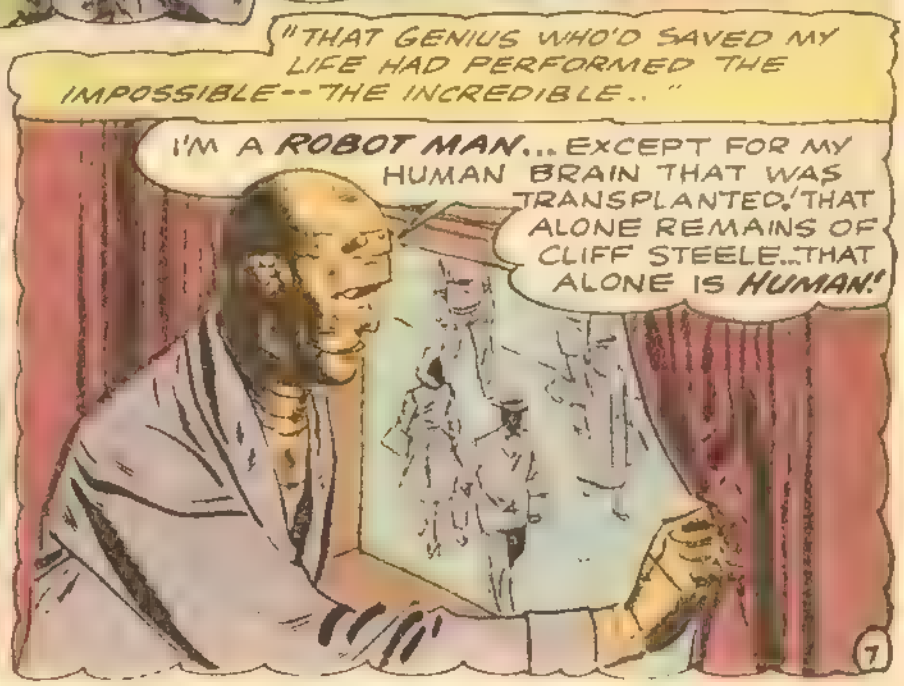

I SUPPOSE IT'S MY TURN NOW! BUT I'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF RELATING MY STORY! I'LL TELL IT MYSELF.. MY WAY!
GOOD HEAVENS... HE'S NOT HUMAN! HE'S... A.. A ROBOT!


I WAS HUMAN ONCE... YOU MAY REMEMBER CLIFF STEELE, A DARE-DEVIL IN SEARCH OF EXCITEMENT AND DANGER..

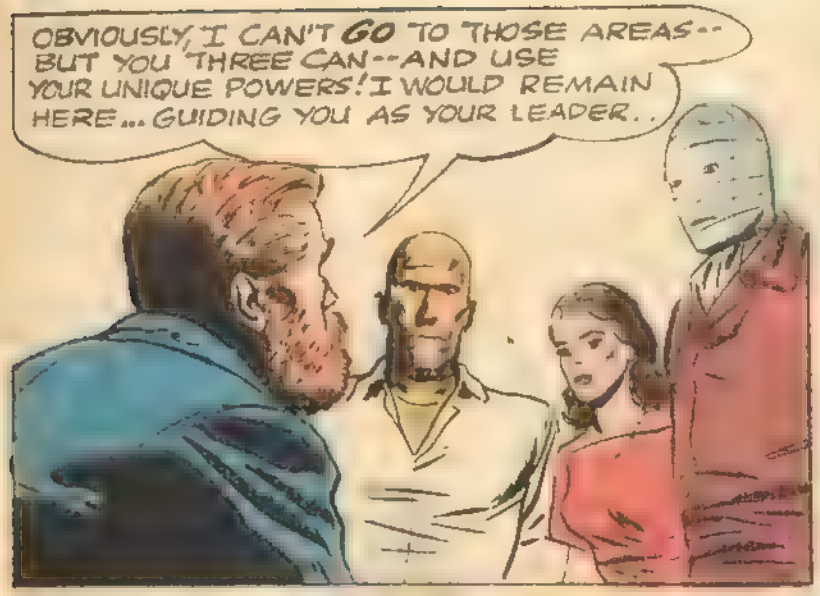

"IT HAPPENED AT A EUROPEAN TRACK WHILE I WAS ROUNDING A KILLER CURVE IN MY OWN SOUPED-UP SPECIAL ."
SKREEEE
36


"I CAME TO IN A HOSPITAL ROOM-- FIGHTING DEATH..."
IT'S HOPELESS! HIS BRAIN'S NOT DAMAGED, BUT HIS BODY'S BEYOND REPAIR!
ONE MAN MIGHT SAVE HIM... ONE SURGICAL WIZARD--IF WE CAN CONTACT HIM IN TIME!

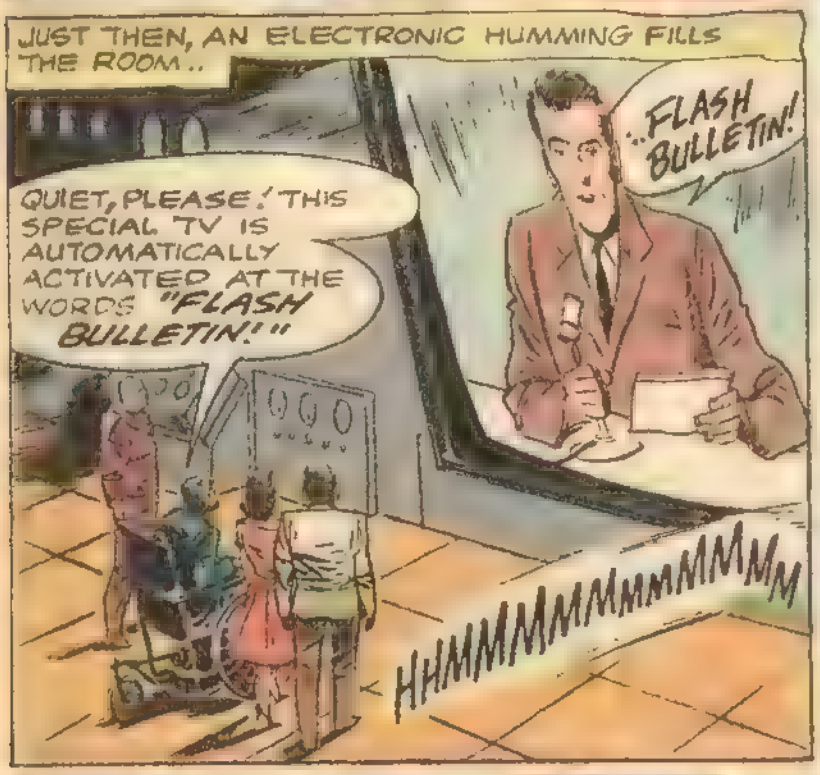

"DIMLY, THROUGH A CLOUD OF ANESTHESIA, I REMEMBER A MAN--A VERY SHORT MAN -- OPERATING ON ME! AN ETERNITY LATER, AS I OPENED MY EYES..."
METAL HANDS! THEY... THEY'RE MY HANDS!

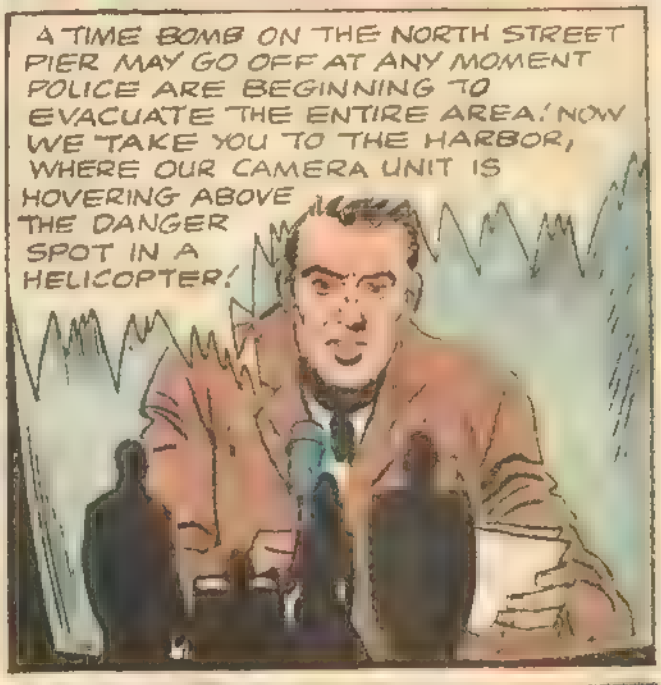

"THAT GENIUS WHO'D SAVED MY LIFE HAD PERFORMED THE IMPOSSIBLE--THE INCREDIBLE.. "
I'M A ROBOT MAN... EXCEPT FOR MY HUMAN BRAIN THAT WAS TRANSPLANTED! THAT ALONE REMAINS OF CLIFF STEELE..THAT ALONE IS HUMAN!
7

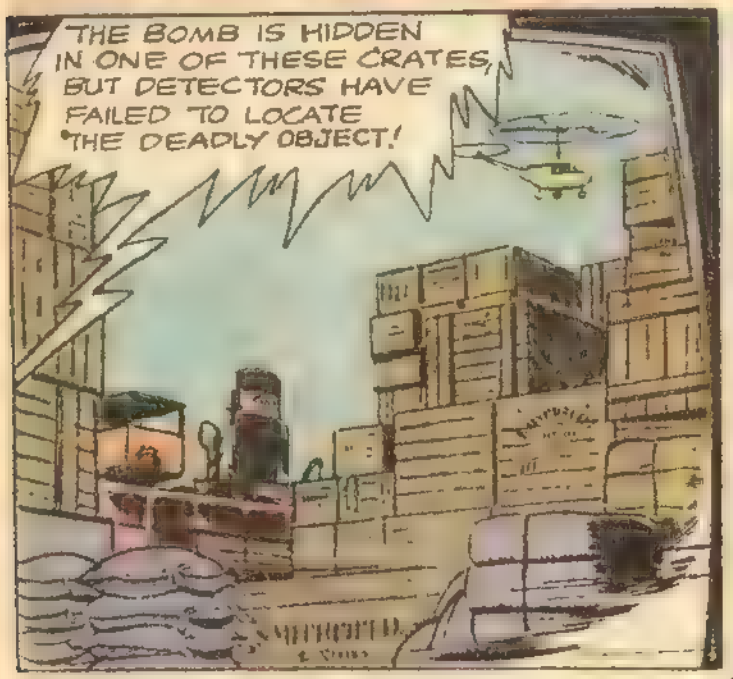
"SURE, MY ROBOT BODY WAS PERFECT--AND I COULD PERFORM ALL MY FORMER FEATS EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE BUT.."
COMPETE WITH THAT MECHANICAL CHARACTER? WHAT CHANCE HAVE WE GOT AGAINST HIM--OR SHOULD I SAY "IT?"
YOU'RE RIGHT! EITHER HE PULLS OUT, OR WE DO!
21
AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME I'VE GOT NO REASON TO BE BITTER... NO REASON TO FEEL I'M AN OUTCAST?
BUT YOU FORGET, IN YOUR SELF-PITY, HOW UNIQUE YOU ARE! YOU'RE INVULNERABLE TO MOST DANGERS -- UNBELIEVABLY STRONG AND YOUR LIVING BRAIN STILL THRILLS TO YOUR FIVE SENSES!
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE... BEING TRAPPED INSIDE THIS METAL BODY? HOW DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME AT ALL?
I KNOW, CLIFF..BECAUSE I WAS THAT SURGEON!
A GASP GREETS THE ANNOUNCEMENT...
INCREDIBLE!
IT...IT... MUST BE HIM! HE OPERATED FROM HIS WHEELCHAIR...THAT'S WHY HE SEEMED SHORT TO ME!
NOW WITH SILENCE BORN OF A NEW RESPECT, THEY FOLLOW THEIR AMAZING HOST ALONG A CORRIDOR...
MY HEADQUARTERS CONTAINS ALMOST ALL THE WORLD'S KNOWLEDGE... EVERY TECHNIQUE OF OPERATION... EVERY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS!
THIS IS THE NERVE CENTER! HERE I CAN INSTANTLY BE IN CONTACT WITH ANY PLACE ON EARTH WHEN DISASTER STRIKES!
8

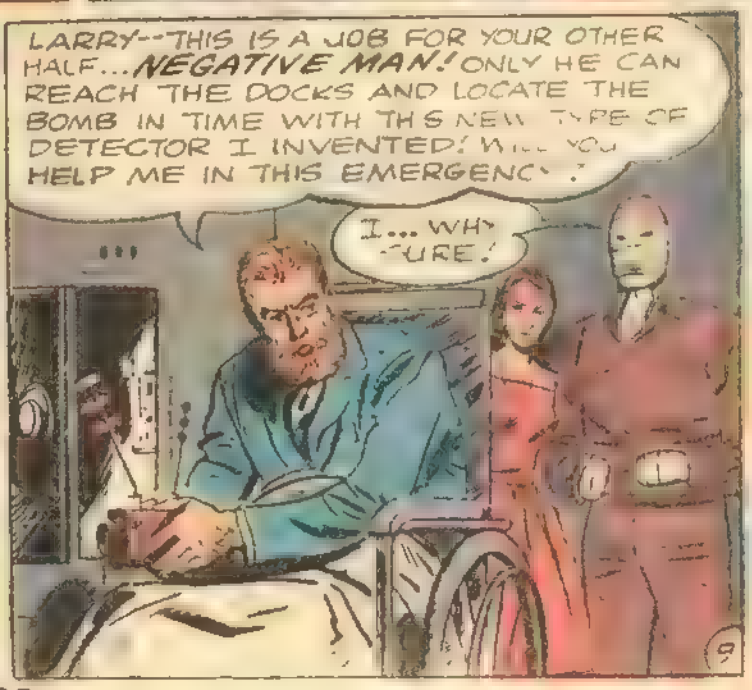

OBVIOUSLY, I CAN'T GO TO THOSE AREAS-- BUT YOU THREE CAN--AND USE YOUR UNIQUE POWERS! I WOULD REMAIN HERE... GUIDING YOU AS YOUR LEADER..

YOU'RE AN AMAZING GUY--AND THIS SET-UP IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT COULD YOU HELP US FROM A GREAT DISTANCE?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY.


JUST THEN, AN ELECTRONIC HUMMING FILLS THE ROOM..
..FLASH BULLETIN!
QUIET, PLEASE! THIS SPECIAL TV IS AUTOMATICALLY ACTIVATED AT THE WORDS "FLASH BULLETIN!"
HHMMMMMMMMMMM

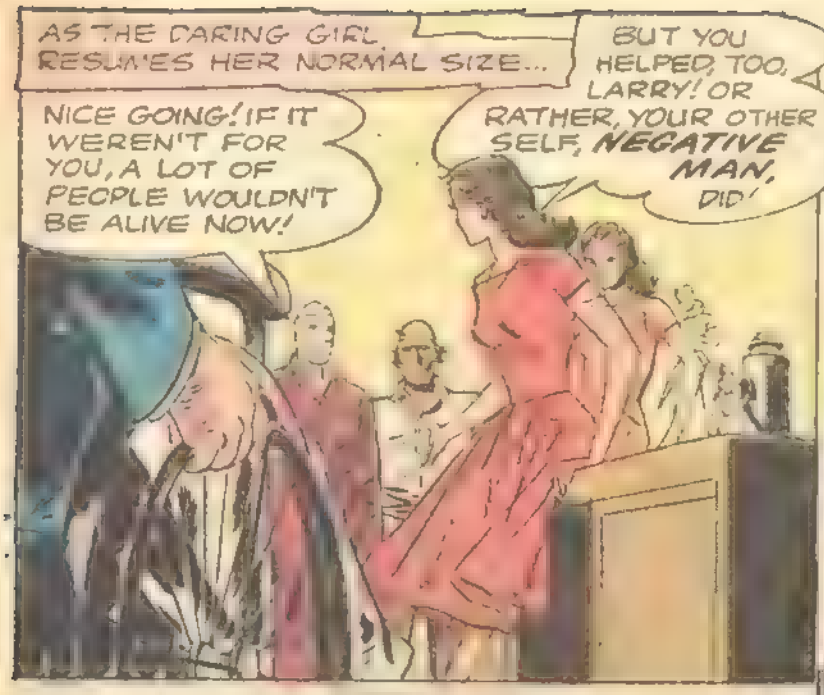

A TIME BOMB ON THE NORTH STREET PIER MAY GO OFF AT ANY MOMENT POLICE ARE BEGINNING TO EVACUATE THE ENTIRE AREA! NOW WE TAKE YOU TO THE HARBOR, WHERE OUR CAMERA UNIT IS HOVERING ABOVE THE DANGER SPOT IN A HELICOPTER!

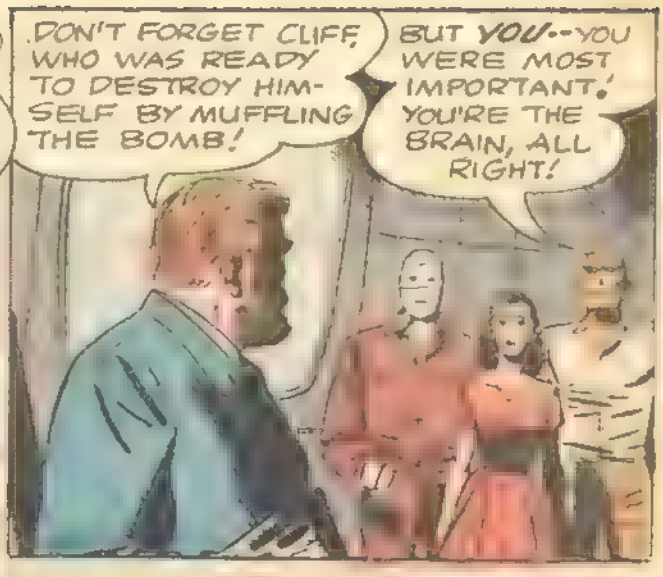

THE BOMB IS HIDDEN IN ONE OF THESE CRATES, BUT DETECTORS HAVE FAILED TO LOCATE THE DEADLY OBJECT!

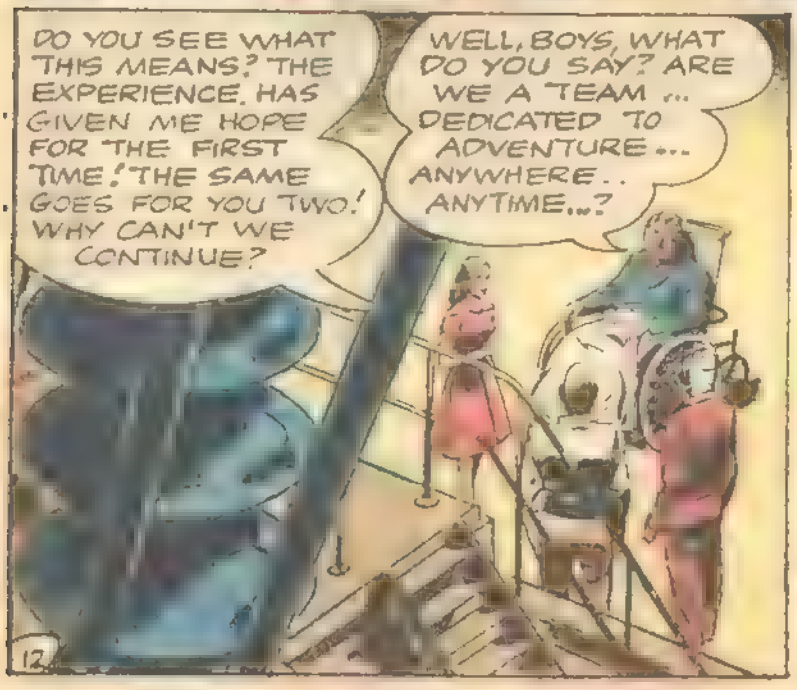

LARRY--THIS IS A JOB FOR YOUR OTHER HALF... NEGATIVE MAN! ONLY HE CAN REACH THE DOCKS AND LOCATE THE BOMB IN TIME WITH THIS NEW TYPE OF DETECTOR I INVENTED! WILL YOU HELP ME IN THIS EMERGENCY?
I... WHY SURE!
9

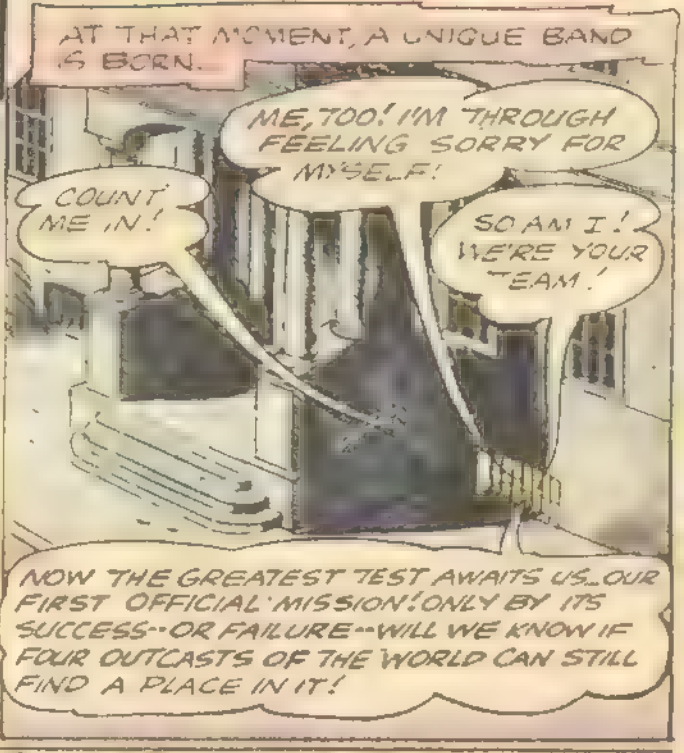
GRASPING THE INSTRUMENT, LARRY CONCENTRATES ALL HIS WILL POWER...
THAT WEIRD FIGURE IS SPLITTING AWAY FROM HIS BODY--
AND HE'S COLLAPSING..
AN INSTANT LATER, THE NEGATIVE FORM HAS VANISHED AS LARRY LIES INERT...
HE'S GOT JUST 60 SECONDS TO FIND IT AND RETURN! IF HE'S A MERE SECOND LATE GETTING BACK, LARRY WILL DIE!
SO WILL HUNDREDS OF OTHERS--IF HE DOESN'T LOCATE THAT TNT!
THE TRIO EYES THE GIANT SCREEN TENSELY...
HE'S REACHED THE DOCK--
AND HAS BEGUN TO SEARCH WITH YOUR GADGET! WILL HE BE IN TIME?
10 SECONDS... 11 SECONDS...
ABRUPTLY,
HE FOUND IT! 21 SECONDS... 22...
AND AS THE CLOCK TICKS OFF 32 SECONDS...
HE'S BACK... AND RETURNING TO LARRY'S BODY!
A MAGNIFICENT JOB! NOW I'VE GOT TO DO MINE... GIVE ME THAT BOMB!
ANYTHING WRONG?
IT'S A NEW TYPE OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE-- WITH A SPECIAL TIMER INSIDE! DEACTIVATING IT BY NORMAL METHODS WOULD SET IT OFF! RITA! I MUST ASK YOU TO VOLUNTEER NOW!
10

ONLY YOU--IN YOUR REDUCED SIZE--CAN GET INSIDE THAT THING AND RENDER IT HARMLESS! WILL YOU DO IT?
I'M ON MY WAY!
AM I SMALL ENOUGH?
PERFECT, RITA! NOW WHEN YOU GET INSIDE, YOU WILL SEE TWO INTERSECTING CHANNELS! TAKE THE LEFT ONE.
I...I'D BETTER HOLD IT AGAINST MY METAL BODY...TO SMOTHER THE BLAST...IN CASE
RITA! CAN YOU HEAR ME IN THERE?
YES, I HEAR YOU! I FOUND THE LEFT CHANNEL...
NOW... CAREFUL.. YOU'LL SEE A SMALL GEAR WHEEL...! DO YOU SEE IT, RITA?
YES, I SEE IT!
THERE'S A SMALL LEVER MESHING INTO THE GEAR WHEEL! PULL IT AWAY FROM THE WHEEL.. BUT GENTLY!
MOMENTS GRIND BY..EACH ONE AN ETERNITY..
I'VE GOT IT! I'M LOOSENING IT...IT'S COMING OFF--!
THEN...
SHE DID IT! WHEW!
GOOD GIRL! PLASTIC... EVERY BIT OF IT! THAT'S WHY THE POLICE COULDN'T LOCATE IT! THEIR DETECTORS ONLY WORK ON METAL!
KLINK
11


AS THE DARING GIRL RESUMES HER NORMAL SIZE...
BUT YOU HELPED, TOO, LARRY! OR RATHER, YOUR OTHER SELF, NEGATIVE MAN, DID!
NICE GOING! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE NOW!


DON'T FORGET CLIFF, WHO WAS READY TO DESTROY HIMSELF BY MUFFLING THE BOMB!
BUT YOU--YOU WERE MOST IMPORTANT! YOU'RE THE BRAIN, ALL RIGHT!


DO YOU SEE WHAT THIS MEANS? THE EXPERIENCE HAS GIVEN ME HOPE FOR THE FIRST TIME! THE SAME GOES FOR YOU TWO! WHY CAN'T WE CONTINUE?
WELL, BOYS, WHAT DO YOU SAY? ARE WE A TEAM ... DEDICATED TO ADVENTURE ... ANYWHERE ... ANYTIME...?
12


AT THAT MOMENT, A UNIQUE BAND IS BORN...
ME, TOO! I'M THROUGH FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF!
COUNT ME IN!
SO AM I! WE'RE YOUR TEAM!
NOW THE GREATEST TEST AWAITS US--OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MISSION! ONLY BY ITS SUCCESS--OR FAILURE--WILL WE KNOW IF FOUR OUTCASTS OF THE WORLD CAN STILL FIND A PLACE IN IT!

CHAPTER 2 CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE...

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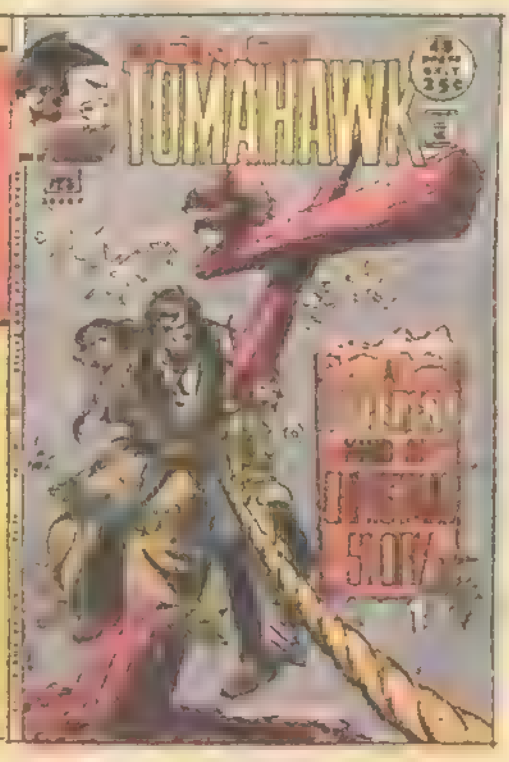
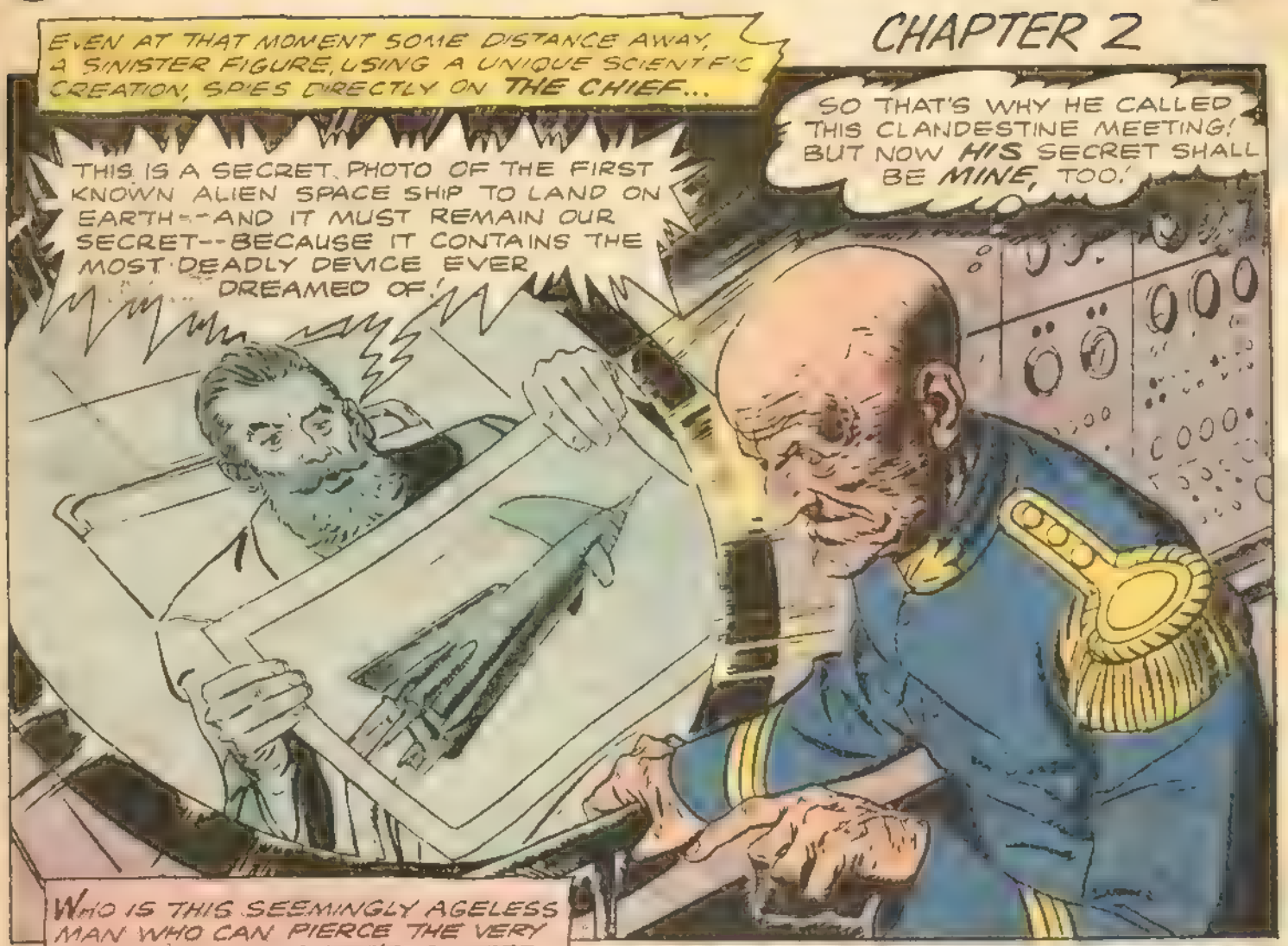
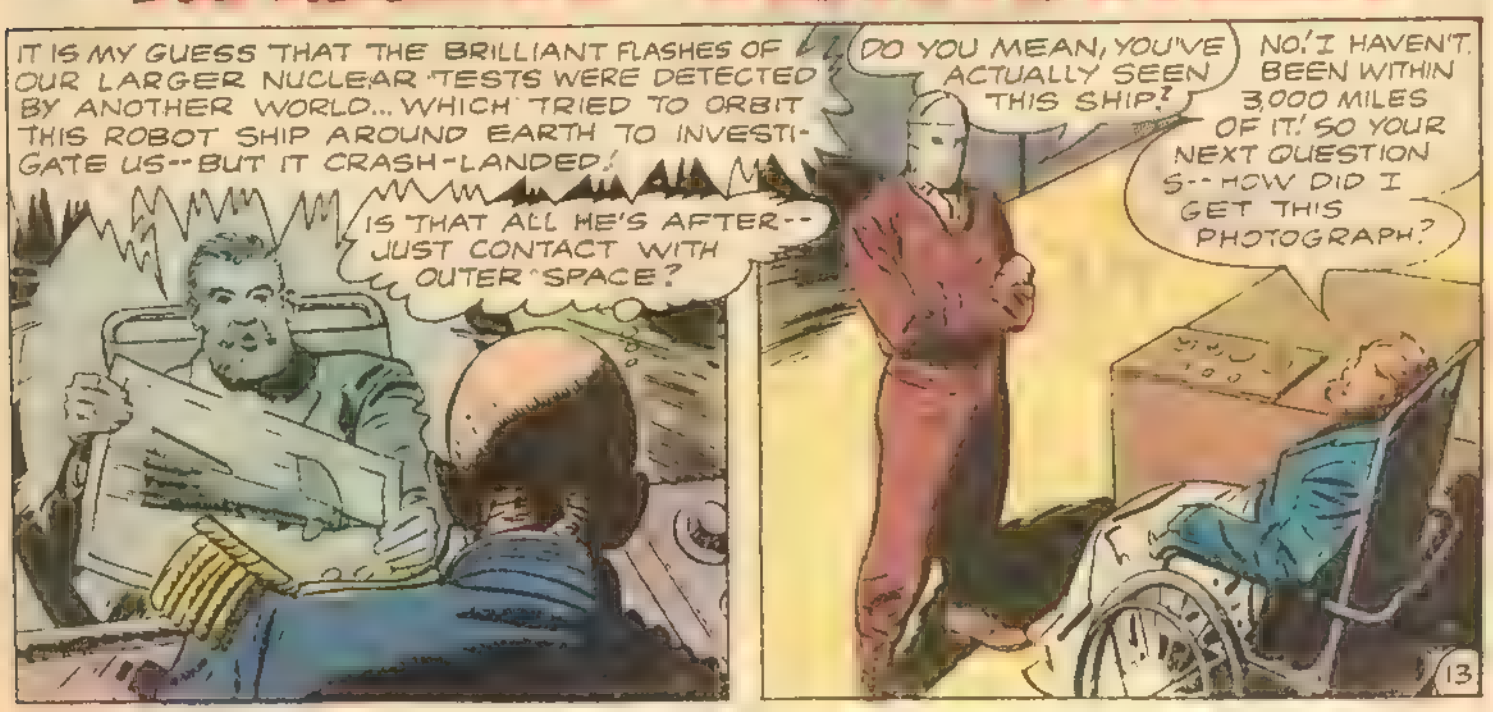


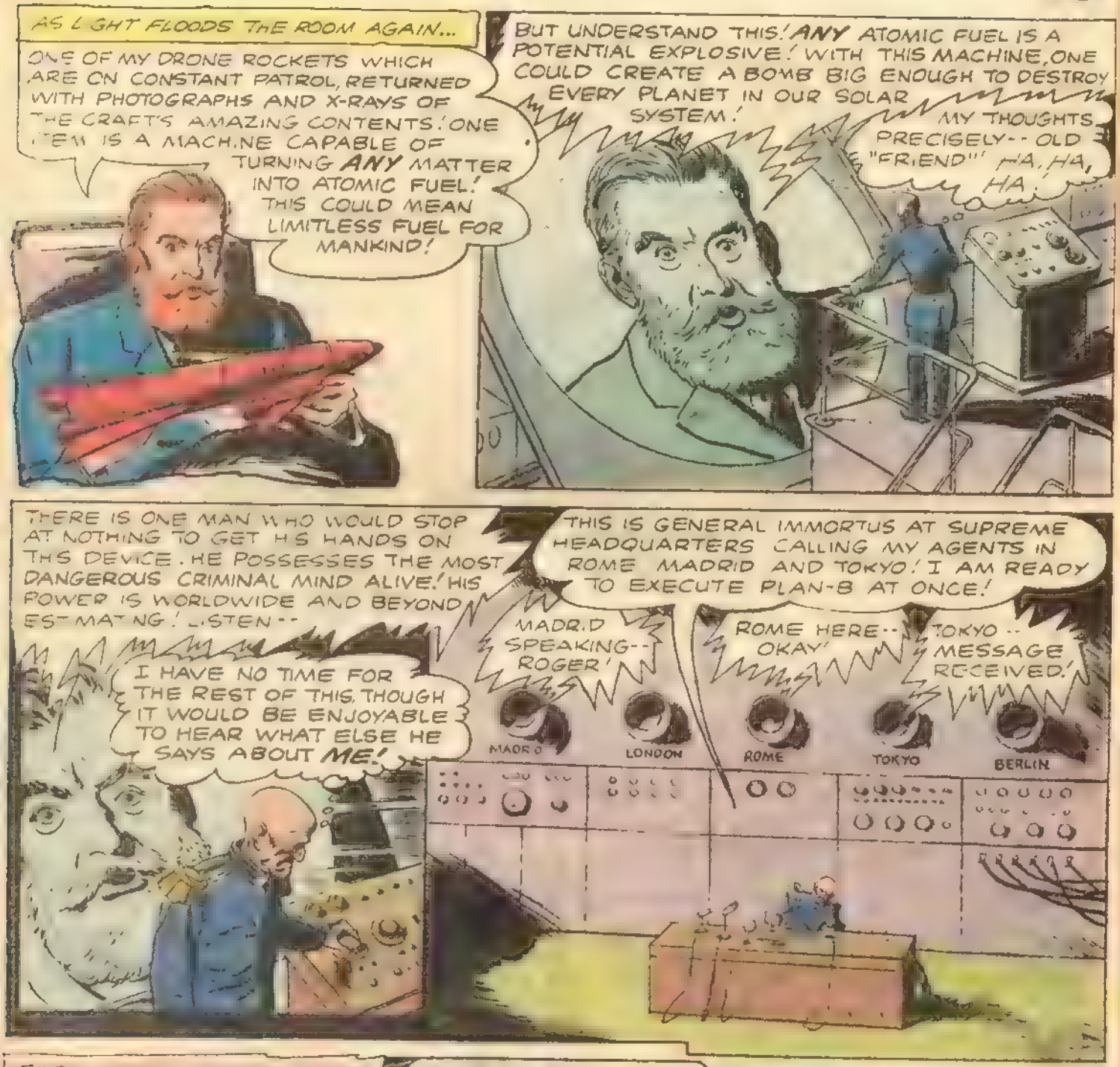
CHAPTER 2


EVEN AT THAT MOMENT SOME DISTANCE AWAY, A SINISTER FIGURE, USING A UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC CREATION, SPIES DIRECTLY ON THE CHIEF...
THIS IS A SECRET PHOTO OF THE FIRST KNOWN ALIEN SPACE SHIP TO LAND ON EARTH--AND IT MUST REMAIN OUR SECRET--BECAUSE IT CONTAINS THE MOST DEADLY DEVICE EVER DREAMED OF!
SO THAT'S WHY HE CALLED THIS CLANDESTINE MEETING! BUT NOW HIS SECRET SHALL BE MINE, TOO!
WHO IS THIS SEEMINGLY AGELESS MAN WHO CAN PIERCE THE VERY WALLS OF THE CHIEF'S SUBTERRANEAN HEADQUARTERS? WHAT IS THE MYSTERY BEHIND..

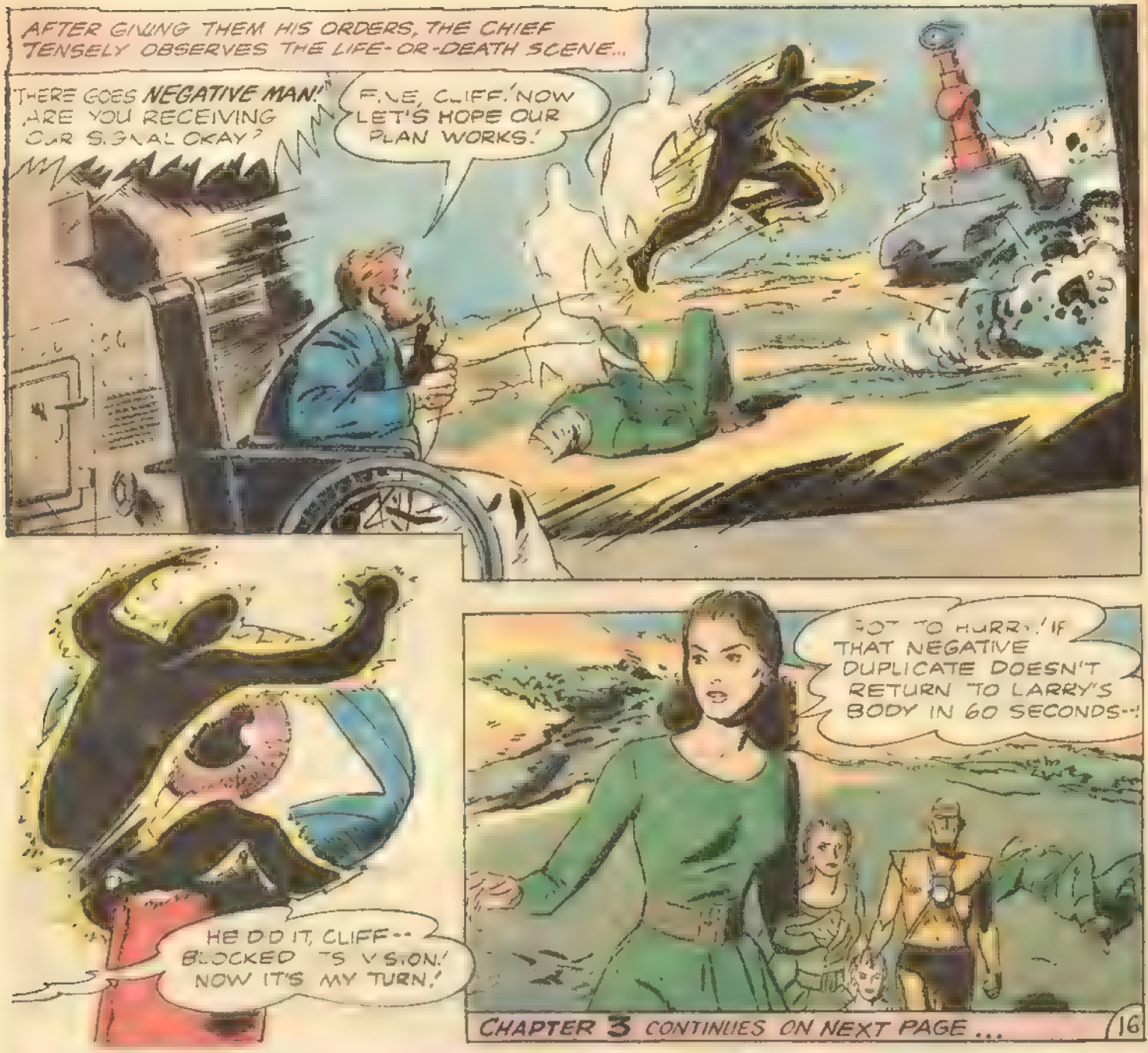
N-430

the CHALLENGE of the TIMELESS COMMANDER


IT IS MY GUESS THAT THE BRILLIANT FLASHES OF OUR LARGER NUCLEAR TESTS WERE DETECTED BY ANOTHER WORLD... WHICH TRIED TO ORBIT THIS ROBOT SHIP AROUND EARTH TO INVESTIGATE US--BUT IT CRASH-LANDED!
IS THAT ALL HE'S AFTER--JUST CONTACT WITH OUTER SPACE?
DO YOU MEAN, YOU'VE ACTUALLY SEEN THIS SHIP?
NO! I HAVEN'T BEEN WITHIN 3,000 MILES OF IT! SO YOUR NEXT QUESTION S--HOW DID I GET THIS PHOTOGRAPH?
13


AS LIGHT FLOODS THE ROOM AGAIN...
ONE OF MY DRONE ROCKETS WHICH ARE ON CONSTANT PATROL, RETURNED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND X-RAYS OF THE CRAFT'S AMAZING CONTENTS! ONE ITEM IS A MACHINE CAPABLE OF TURNING ANY MATTER INTO ATOMIC FUEL! THIS COULD MEAN LIMITLESS FUEL FOR MANKIND!
BUT UNDERSTAND THIS! ANY ATOMIC FUEL IS A POTENTIAL EXPLOSIVE! WITH THIS MACHINE, ONE COULD CREATE A BOMB BIG ENOUGH TO DESTROY EVERY PLANET IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!
MY THOUGHTS PRECISELY-- OLD "FRIEND"! HA, HA, HA!
THERE IS ONE MAN WHO WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO GET HIS HANDS ON THIS DEVICE. HE POSSESSES THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL MIND ALIVE! HIS POWER IS WORLDWIDE AND BEYOND ESTIMATING! LISTEN--
I HAVE NO TIME FOR THE REST OF THIS, THOUGH IT WOULD BE ENJOYABLE TO HEAR WHAT ELSE HE SAYS ABOUT ME!
THIS IS GENERAL IMMORTUS AT SUPREME HEADQUARTERS CALLING MY AGENTS IN ROME MADRID AND TOKYO! I AM READY TO EXECUTE PLAN-B AT ONCE!
MADRID SPEAKING-- ROGER!
ROME HERE-- OKAY!
TOKYO -- MESSAGE RECEIVED!
MADRID
LONDON
ROME
TOKYO
BERLIN
EARLY NEXT DAY WITH LARRY TRAVOR AT THE CONTROLS OF A HUGE TRANSPORT PLANE...
THAT WAS A FANTASTIC YARN THE CHIEF TOLD US ABOUT THIS GENERAL IMMORTUS -- A MAN AS OLD AS TIME!
HE DIDN'T SAY THAT! HE SAID, NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THE GENERAL CAME FROM OR HOW LONG HE'S BEEN ALIVE!
HE FAILED TO DEFEAT HIM THREE TIMES! ANYBODY WHO CAN CHECKMATE A BRAIN LIKE THE CHIEF EVEN ONCE HAS GOT TO BE BIG TROUBLE!
I'M GONNA CHECK OUT THIS PORTABLE TV TRANSMITTER!
14

AS CLIFF STEELE ADJUSTS THE EQUIPMENT STRAPPED TO HIS BODY...
THERE IT IS! I'M DIRECTING THE CAMERA STRAIGHT AT IT, CHIEF!
I SEE IT CLIFF! REMEMBER, YOU THREE, THIS SHIP PROBABLY HAS TERRIFYING AUTOMATIC DEFENSES! ADVANCE WITH CAUTION!
MINUTES LATER, AS THEY LAND AND APPROACH...
LOOK WHAT'S COMING OUT! IT LOOKS LIKE AN ODD TANK... BUT I DON'T SEE ANY WEAPONS!
DON'T BE SO SURE! WHO KNOWS WHAT FORM THOSE STRANGE WEAPONS MIGHT TAKE?
SUDDENLY...
WHOOOOSH
GOOD GRIEF! A METAL COLUMN SHOOTING UP OUT OF THE TANK--TOPPED BY AN EYE WITH SOME KIND OF TUBE BELOW IT! WHAT'S THEIR PURPOSE?
CAN YOU SEE IT, CHIEF? THAT EYE" IS STARTING TO ROTATE!
YES--AND I HAVE AN IDEA WHY, TOO. TAKE COVER, ALL OF YOU, AT ONCE!
WHIRRRR
WHIRRRR
THE CHIEF FIGURED IT OUT! IT'S AN ELECTRONIC SPOTTER WHICH DIRECTS THAT RAY CANNON! WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW!
NO--THERE'S A WAY TO BEAT--
KA-BOOOM
5


AFTER GIVING THEM HIS ORDERS, THE CHIEF TENSELY OBSERVES THE LIFE-OR-DEATH SCENE...
THERE GOES NEGATIVE MAN! ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR SIGNAL OKAY?
F.NE, CLIFF. NOW LET'S HOPE OUR PLAN WORKS!
HE DID IT, CLIFF-- BLOCKED TS VISION! NOW IT'S MY TURN!
GOT TO HURRY! IF THAT NEGATIVE DUPLICATE DOESN'T RETURN TO LARRY'S BODY IN 60 SECONDS--!
CHAPTER 3 CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE ...
16

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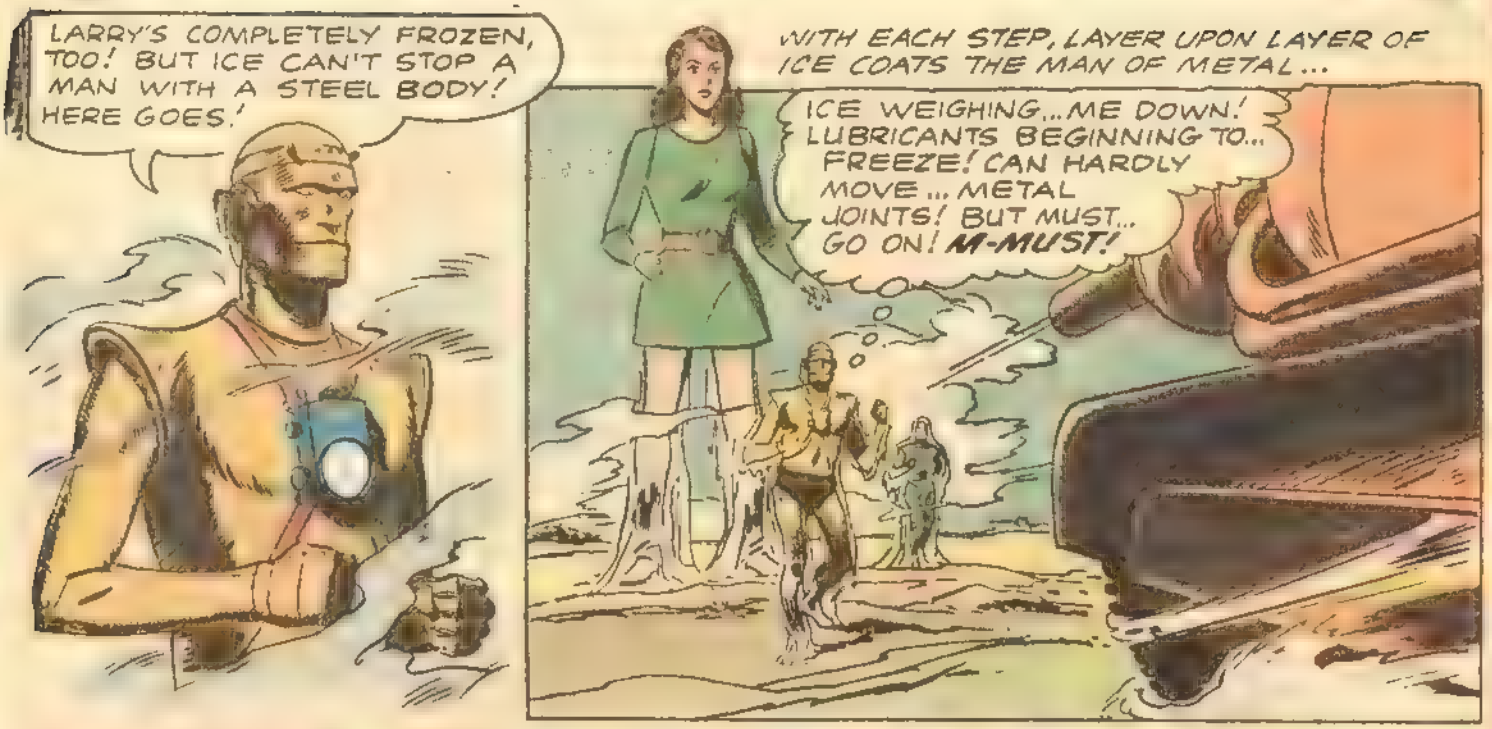
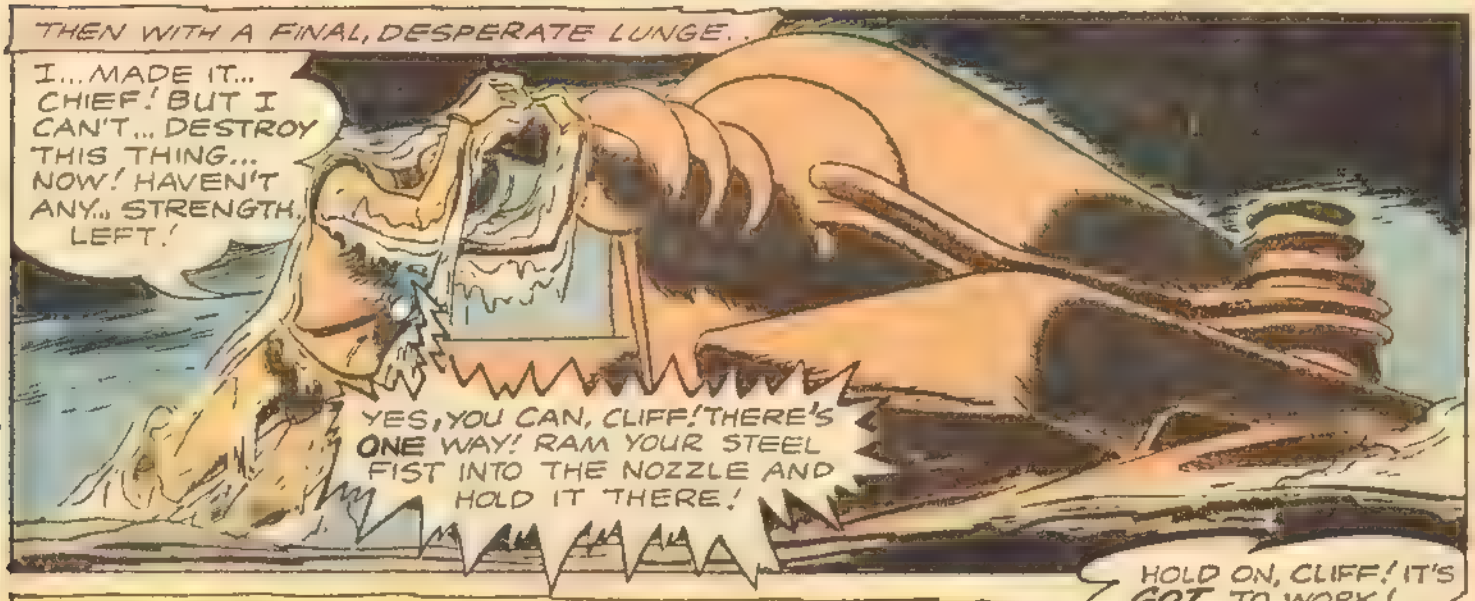
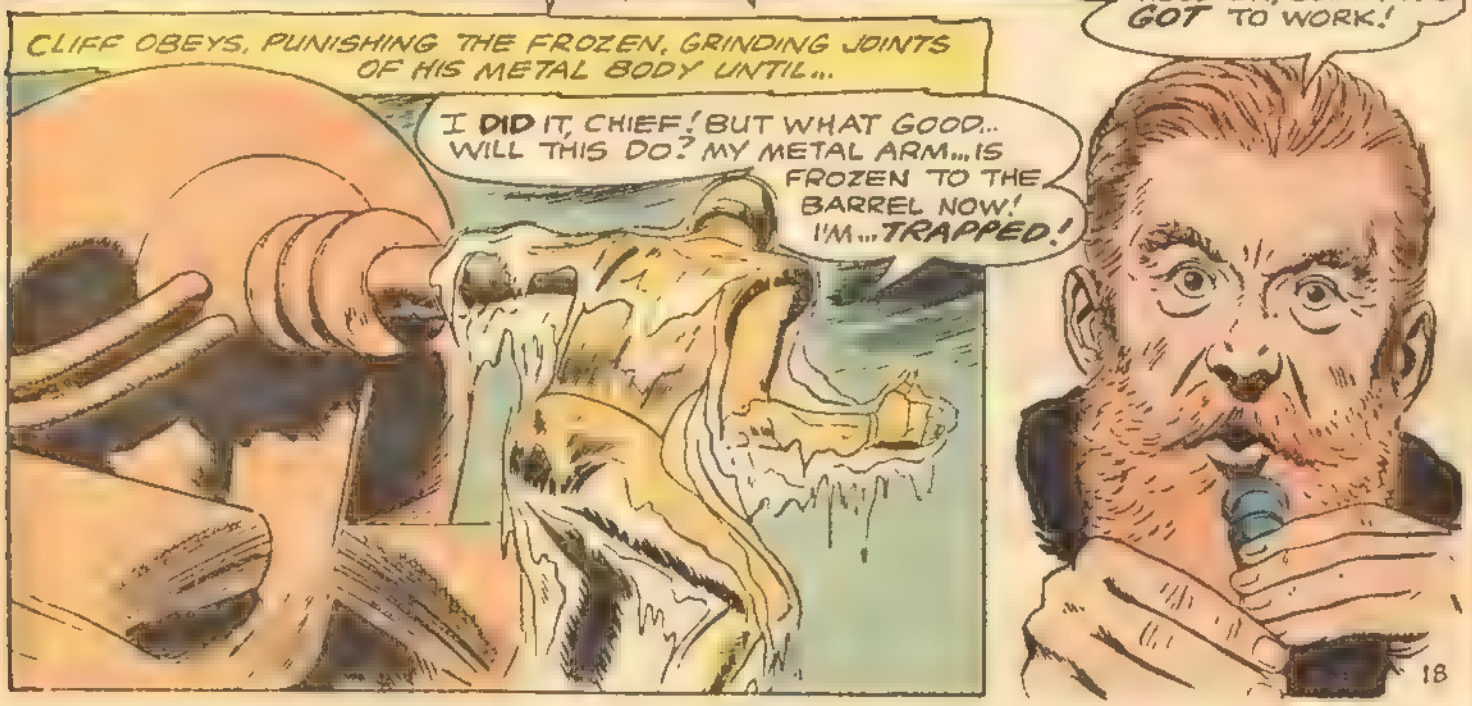
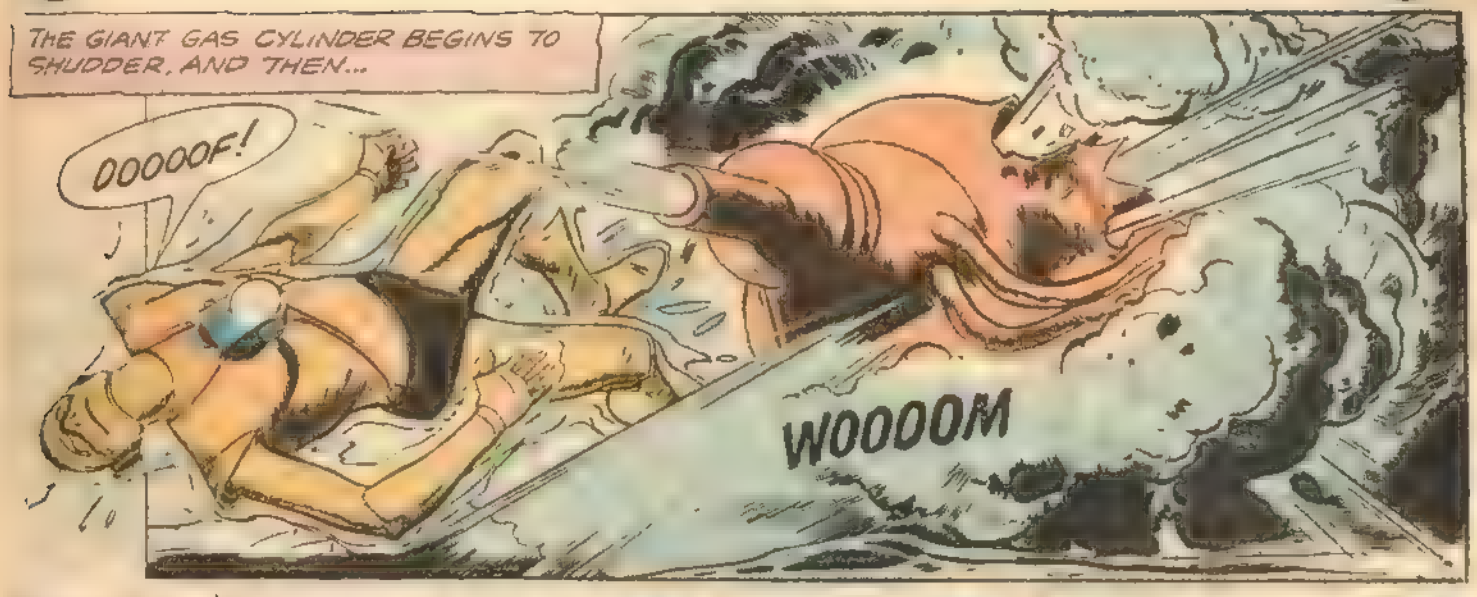
CHAPTER 3 the DEADLY DUEL WITH GEN. IMMORTUS

BLINDED, THE RAY CANNON UNLEASHES AN AIMLESS FUSILLADE...
SNAPPING THIS OFF IS NO PROBLEM! WHEN I'M THIS SIZE, I'VE GOT INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!
CRUNCH
NEGATIVE MAN, GET BACK TO LARRY! HURRY!
WHOOSH
THEN, AS THE WEIRD, ELECTRONIC SHAPE MERGES ONCE MORE WITH LARRY'S BODY..
GOOD WORK, RITA! NOW YOU CAN RETURN TO NORMAL!
NOT YET! THAT SHIP MAY HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN ITS BAG OF TRICKS!
JUST WHAT I THOUGHT! LET ME HANDLE THIS-- WHATEVER IT IS!
WHRRR
AGGGH! IT'S A FREEZING GAS! MY LEGS--THEY'VE TURNED TO ICE... CAN'T MOVE!
17

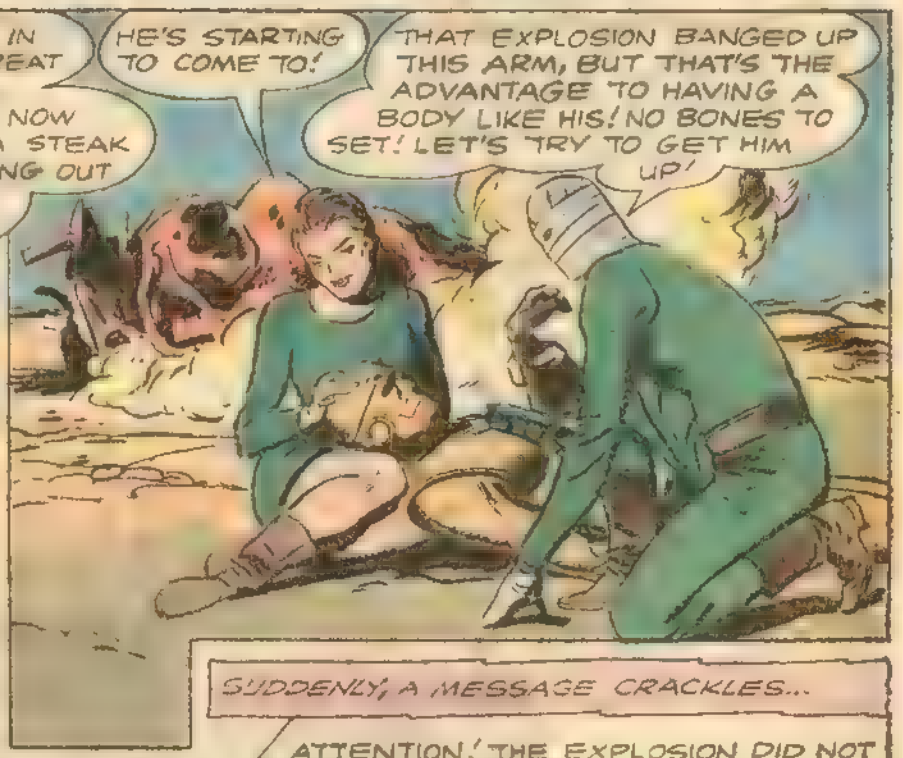

LARRY'S COMPLETELY FROZEN, TOO! BUT ICE CAN'T STOP A MAN WITH A STEEL BODY! HERE GOES!
WITH EACH STEP, LAYER UPON LAYER OF ICE COATS THE MAN OF METAL...
ICE WEIGHING...ME DOWN! LUBRICANTS BEGINNING TO... FREEZE! CAN HARDLY MOVE... METAL JOINTS! BUT MUST... GO ON! M-MUST!

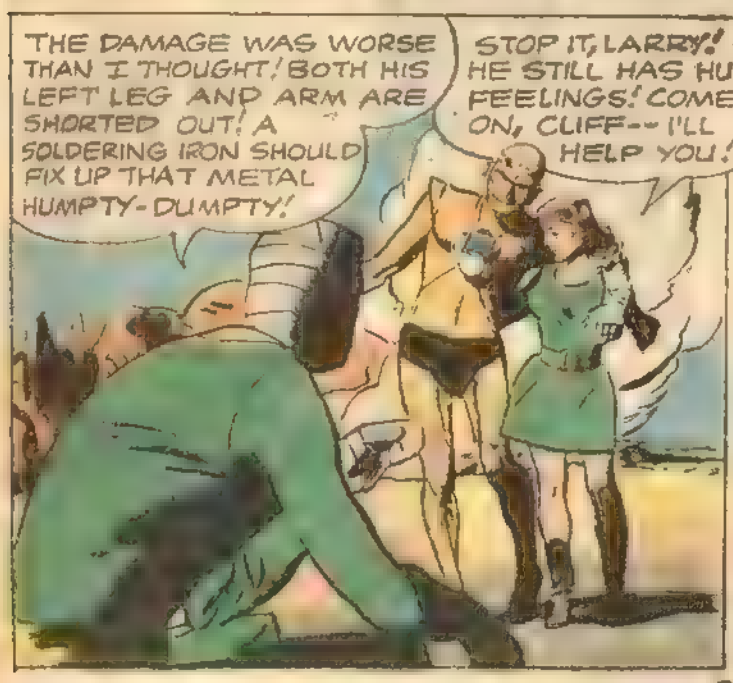

THEN WITH A FINAL, DESPERATE LUNGE...
I...MADE IT... CHIEF! BUT I CAN'T... DESTROY THIS THING... NOW! HAVEN'T ANY... STRENGTH LEFT!
YES, YOU CAN, CLIFF! THERE'S ONE WAY! RAM YOUR STEEL FIST INTO THE NOZZLE AND HOLD IT THERE!

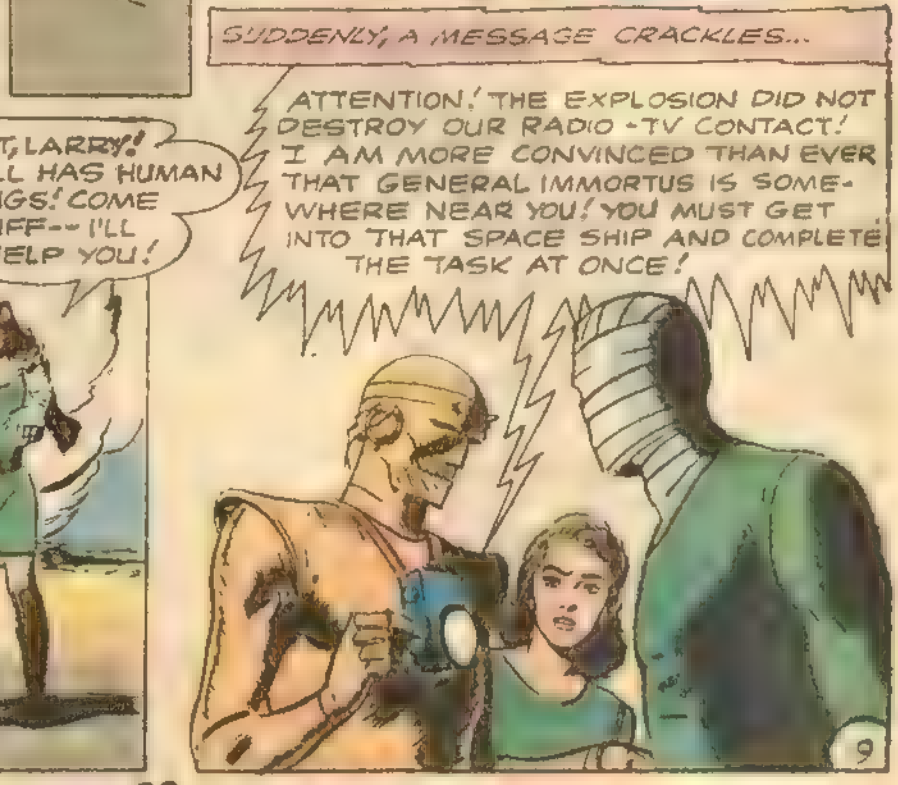

CLIFF OBEYS, PUNISHING THE FROZEN, GRINDING JOINTS OF HIS METAL BODY UNTIL...
I DID IT, CHIEF! BUT WHAT GOOD... WILL THIS DO? MY METAL ARM... IS FROZEN TO THE BARREL NOW! I'M... TRAPPED!
HOLD ON, CLIFF! IT'S GOT TO WORK!
18


THE GIANT GAS CYLINDER BEGINS TO SHUDDER, AND THEN...
OOOOOF!
WOOOOM

WITH THE FREEZING GAS DISSIPATED, RITA AND LARRY SOON THAW OUT.
THANKS TO CLIFF, WE'RE ALIVE BUT HE'S HURT, LARRY
I'M NOT IN SUCH GREAT SHAPE MYSELF! NOW I KNOW WHAT A STEAK FEELS LIKE COMING OUT OF THE DEEP FREEZE!


HE'S STARTING TO COME TO!
THAT EXPLOSION BANGED UP THIS ARM, BUT THAT'S THE ADVANTAGE TO HAVING A BODY LIKE HIS! NO BONES TO SET! LET'S TRY TO GET HIM UP!


THE DAMAGE WAS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT! BOTH HIS LEFT LEG AND ARM ARE SHORTED OUT! A SOLDERING IRON SHOULD FIX UP THAT METAL HUMPTY-DUMPTY!
STOP IT, LARRY! HE STILL HAS HUMAN FEELINGS! COME ON, CLIFF--I'LL HELP YOU!


SUDDENLY, A MESSAGE CRACKLES...
ATTENTION! THE EXPLOSION DID NOT DESTROY OUR RADIO-TV CONTACT! I AM MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT GENERAL IMMORTUS IS SOMEWHERE NEAR YOU! YOU MUST GET INTO THAT SPACE SHIP AND COMPLETE THE TASK AT ONCE!
9

CAUTIOUSLY, THE TRIO ENTERS...
WHEW! LOOK AT THIS PLACE! DID YOU EVER SEE SO MUCH ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT?
IT IS IMPRESSIVE! BUT REMEMBER YOUR IMMEDIATE TASK! THAT DEVICE HANGING FROM THE CEILING IS THE ATOMIC CONVERTER! CLIFF--TEAR IT OUT!
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE GOOD ARM LEFT... BUT I CAN CONCENTRATE ALL MY POWER IN IT!
ONE--TWO--TH-REEE!
OOOOF!
CRAAACK
ODD, ISN'T IT--THAT THIS SHIP CRASH-LANDED DAYS AGO, YET THOSE CONTROLS ARE STILL WORKING AWAY AT SOMETHING! BUT WHAT?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT! THAT SHIP IS TRYING TO REPAIR ITSELF SO IT CAN RETURN TO ITS WORLD! IF YOU THREE DON'T GET OUT OF THERE NOW! YOU'LL GO BACK WITH IT!
SUDDENLY..
ATTENTION, YOU THREE INSIDE THE SPACE SHIP! THIS IS GENERAL IMMORTUS! I AM OFFERING YOU A CHOICE--SURRENDER OR DIE!
20

I KNOW ABOUT THE UNIQUE POWERS EACH OF YOU POSSESSES! BUT I WARN YOU, I HAVE SPECIAL WEAPONS THAT CAN DESTROY YOU! YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE TO DECIDE!
WHAT'LL WE DO? IF WE STAY, THE SHIP WILL TAKE OFF WITH US!
YOU HEARD HIM, CHIEF! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO SURRENDER TO GENERAL IMMORTUS AND LET HIM HAVE THE ATOMIC CONVERTER!
IT'S A TIGHT SITUATION -- BUT THERE MAY BE ONE WAY OUT! NOW, LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY! ONE SLIP COULD DOOM ALL OF YOU!
TENSE SECONDS TICK AWAY, AND THEN...
HERE I AM, GENERAL! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO A BODY MADE OF STEEL AS THICK AS TANK ARMOR!
YOU THINK I WAS BOASTING IDLY? WITNESS WHAT THIS DEVICE DOES TO YOU, ROBOT MAN!
MY POLARIZATION RAY CAN STOP ANY ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT OR MOTOR! THAT MEANS EVERY SOURCE OF POWER AND MOTION YOU POSSESS!
WHAM
KA-LANG
HE WAS RIGHT! I CAN'T COMMAND ANY PART OF MY BODY! MY BRAIN STILL FUNCTIONS, BECAUSE IT'S HUMAN -- BUT THE REST OF ME IS A PILE OF USELESS JUNK NOW!
21

AT THAT MOMENT, BACK AT THE CHIEF'S HEADQUARTERS.
I WAS AFRAID THAT MIGHT HAPPEN. HE FELL FORWARD, BLOCKING THE CAMERA'S LENS -- BUT I CAN STILL HEAR WHAT'S GOING ON!
THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU! NOW FOR YOUR TWO FRIENDS STILL INSIDE THE SHIP!
ONLY ONE OF YOU? I PRESUME THE GIRL MADE HERSELF SMALL ENOUGH TO HIDE BEHIND SOME TINY OBJECT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER AS SOON AS I'VE DESTROYED YOUR NEGATIVE MAN!
INSTANTLY, NEGATIVE MAN ISSUES FROM LARRY'S BODY...
YOU SEE! THIS DEVICE ISSUES RADIO INTERFERENCE -- STATIC -- WHICH SHATTERS THE CONTINUITY OF THE ENERGY THAT COMPOSES NEGATIVE MAN! I SHALL KEEP HIM APART FOR 60 SECONDS! THAT MEANS HE CAN'T RETURN TO YOUR BODY -- AND YOU WILL DIE!
AT THAT MOMENT, AN UNNOTICEABLE BIT OF ACTION OCCURS IN ONE AREA OF CHIEF'S ROBOT BODY...
AAH! THAT'S IT -- FASTER RITA -- FASTER.
I MADE IT CLEAR THE CHIEF WAS RIGHT GENERAL IMMORTUS WOULD NEVER HAVE LOOKED FOR ME HERE! NOW TO FINISH THE JOB
22

UNSEEN BY THE PAIR IN THE GENERAL'S VEHICLE, THE TINY FIGURE RACES ACROSS THE GROUND AND CLIMBS UP THE SIDE..
GOT TO SWITCH OFF THAT POLARIZATION RAY! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO FREE CLIFF!
CLICK
HIGH
MED.
LOW
OFF
THE MOMENT THAT THE RAY VANISHES...
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE RAY! THE ROBOT MAN IS COMING BACK TO "LIFE!" WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SEE!
UGH!
OOF!
LOOK, MA! ONLY ONE HAND! NOW FOR THE BIG CHEESE HIMSELF!
...56 SECONDS -- 57 SEC -- AGGGGH!
WHAM
GOOD WORK, CLIFF! BUT WE'VE ONLY THREE SECONDS TO RELEASE NEGATIVE MAN!
23

AND WITH ONE SECOND TO SPARE...
WHEW, THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL! I NEVER WANT TO STARE DEATH THAT CLOSE AGAIN IN THE FACE! LET'S GO--! THIS SHIP MIGHT TAKE OFF AT ANY MOMENT!
WE MADE IT-- NO THANKS TO GENERAL IMMORTUS!
THE GENERAL! WE FORGOT HIM! --THE DOOR'S CLOSING!
WHIRRR
DON'T LEAVE ME IN HERE! THE SHIP IS PREPARING TO TAKE OFF! GET ME OUT!
WHIRRR
BZZZZ
TOO LATE! IT'S TAKING OFF! BUT WITH MY KNOWLEDGE, I CAN HANDLE THESE CONTROLS AND LAND IT! CAREFUL, THOUGH! ONE MISTAKE MIGHT CAUSE IT TO BLOW UP!
BZZZZ
LOOK! THE SHIP'S LEVELED OFF! IMMORTUS MUST BE RUNNING IT-- HE'S ESCAPING!
SUDDENLY...
KA-BOOM!
WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED? THE SHIP BLEW TO PIECES JUST AS IT PASSED THAT MOUNTAIN TOP! THAT'S THE END OF GENERAL IMMORTUS!
24

I WAS THINKING, RITA-- WHEN MY NEGATIVE MAN WAS WORKING WITH YOU TO KNOCK OUT THAT TANK-- WE MADE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM, YOU AND I!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WE?"
LISTEN HERE, OL' MUMMY WRAPPINGS --WHO SAVED YOUR NECK WHEN GENERAL IMMORTUS WAS SHAKING YOUR N-MAN UP LIKE A MALTED MILK? HMM?
CUT IT OUT, YOU TWO! YOU'RE FORGETTING THIS WOULD'VE BEEN A SHORT, UGLY TRIP FOR ALL OF US IF IT WEREN'T FOR A MAN IN A WHEEL-CHAIR 3,000 MILES AWAY!
THE FOLLOWING DAY..
WELL, A LITTLE SOLDERING IRON AND WELDING TORCH "SURGERY" PUT ME BACK N SHAPE, CHIEF! WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
I THINK WE'RE ALL CONVINCED THAT WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM! THERE'S LOTS THAT WE CAN DO! LIFE ISN'T OVER FOR US! IT'S JUST BEGINNING!
"--AND SO THESE THREE EXILES FROM THE HUMAN RACE BATTLED TO SAVE A WORLD THAT HAD REJECTED THEM" WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN ACCEPTED!
MORE THAN THAT, LARRY! WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A NAME! THE DOOM PATROL! WHAT DO YOU THINK
AMAZING VICTORY OF DOOM PATROL
25

48 pages ONLY 25¢
THE MAGIC OF KIRBY!
ON SALE NOV. 11TH
MIRACLE

OH PLASTIC MAN!
by JACK COLE
SORRY, WOOZY, BUT PLASTIC MAN IS HAVING TROUBLES OF HIS OWN. YOU'D NEVER THINK TO LOOK AT HIM.. THAT WOOZY WINKS LEADS A CHARMED LIFE, BUT HE IS PROTECTED FROM ALL HARM BY MOTHER NATURE. AS PLASTIC MAN'S NEW PARTNER, HE RUNS INTO TROUBLE GALORE, WHEN HE AND PLASTIC MAN SET OUT TO CAPTURE GANGSTER EEL O'BRIAN (WHO IS REALLY PLASTIC MAN HIMSELF) AND WIND UP IN THE CLUTCHES OF A VICIOUS WAR-TIME RACKET!
HELP! OCTOPUS!!
OCTOPUS, NOTHIN'!... THAT'S PLASTIC MAN!!!
N-424
FROM: POLICE COMICS #14 (DEC., 1942).

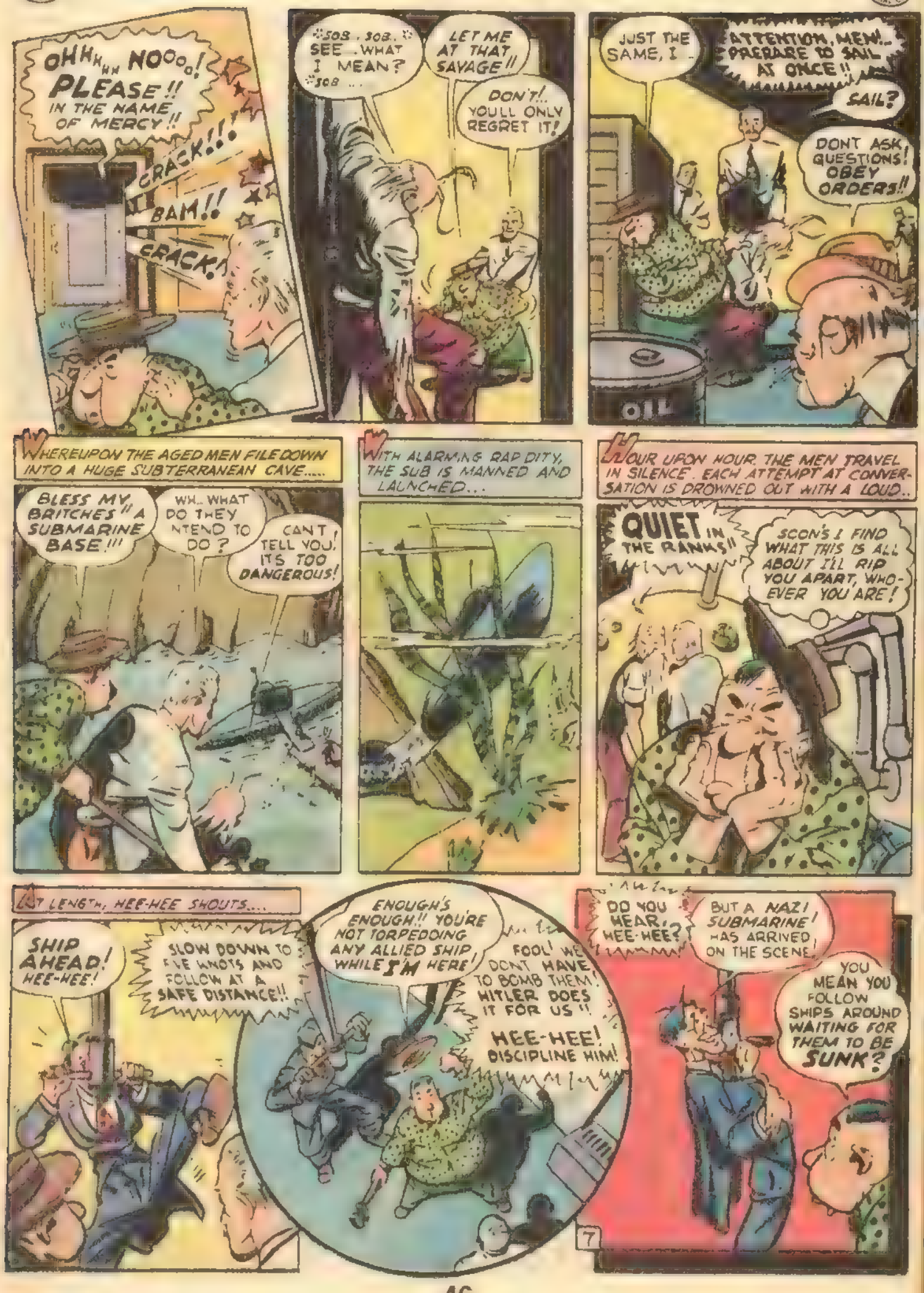
SCENE. CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS
SURE, SURE I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD MAN PLASTIC ONE OF THE BEST ON THE FORCE BUT WHAT ABOUT EEL O'BRIAN? HERE'S A RAT, WANTED FOR EVERYTHING IN THE BOOK AND YET, HE'S PERMITTED THE RUN OF THE CITY! THE REPUTATION OF THE FORCE DEMANDS HIS CAPTURE !!
MURPHEY DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK OF WHY HE WAS NICK-NAMED EEL?
WANTED
EEL O'BRIAN
OF COURSE HE'S SLIPPERY.. BUT EVEN EELS CAN BE CAUGHT WITH THE RIGHT BAIT! NOW, YOU— ???
I WON'T!
YOU WILL !!
I WON'T!
I'M GOING!
YOU'RE STAYING!
ON THE CONTRARY!
BUT DEFINITELY!
SUDDENLY, LIGHTNING FLASHES
BAM!
I'M TIRED, VERY TIRED.
TROUBLE WITH PEOPLE AROUND HERE IS THEY REFUSE TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!
AND ANOTHER THING.. THIS SPECIMEN YOU NETTED LAST WEEK IS DRIVING ME LOCO!! HE WON'T BE LOCKED UP! WALKS OUT WHENEVER HE PLEASES!
HA!
HERES A PROPOSITION: IF YOU'LL RELEASE WOOZY WINKS IN MY CUSTODY I'LL PROMISE TO HAVE EEL O'BRIAN IN A WEEK !!
EEL O'BRIAN!! HE'S THE SKUNK WHO DOUBLE-CROSSED ME!! I'LL BRING THE GUY IN BARE-HANDED !.. BY THE WAY HOW MUCH IS THE REWARD?
ONE GRAND.. AND CLEAR OUT, YOU TWO, BEFORE I HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART !!
LATER..
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I BOTHER WITH A BIRD LIKE YOU, WINKS, BUT I'M CONVINCED YOU'RE NOT A THIEF AT HEART! YOU'RE JUST WEAK!
FAT FOLKS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR LOW RESISTANCE!
2
BLESS MY BUSTLE! ONE FINDS THE DARNDEST THINGS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S WALLETS! HERE'S A PHOTO OF EEL O'BRIAN, NO LESS !!
YOU INCORRIGIBLE! WHERE DID YOU LIFT THAT?
FROM YON GENTS RUMBLE-SEAT! SAY!... YOU THINK HE KNOWS WHERE O'BRIAN IS?
I'LL SOON FIND OUT!.. MEANWHILE, YOU SCOUR THE WATERFRONT AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN SEE! AND KEEP YOUR HANDS IN YOUR POCKETS OR WE'LL BOTH LAND IN JAIL!

WHY WOULD A GUY BE TOTING MY PICTURE WHEN OLIVIA DE HAVILAND'S IS SO MUCH MORE DESIRABLE?
IT'D BE JUST MY LUCK FOR HIM TO PHONE HIS BUTCHER!
DRUGS
CONFE
...BUT, CHIEF, IT TAKES TIME TO GET THE EEL!... NO I AINT ALIBIIN' BUT THE SCREWS ARE AFTER HIM, TOO!.. HE'S NOT IN HIS USUAL HAUNTS.. TOOK A MINT-SAUCE VACATION... ON THE LAM!!! NOW, DON'T WORRY... I'LL GET 'IM!!!
OH! OH!
WHY DID I FORGET MY EEL O'BRIAN PIN-STRIPE SUIT??
OH, WELL!
HALD!! SOMEBODY'S FEESHING FOR A HERRING-BONE SPACHEL WIT' TWO PAIR OF PENTS!!
ZIP
PANTS $10.00
A SHORT MOMENT LATER
I'LL CALL YOU LATER, CHIEF! THERE HE GOES NOW!!
ZIP
OPERATOR! WHERE WAS THAT CALL PUT THROUGH TO?
WHO WANTS TO KNOW?
POLICE!
OH, YES, SIR! HERE IT IS..
NOW FOR A GOOD, JUSTY TAXI!!
UNDER YOUR NOSE, BUD!.. UNDER YOUR NOSE!!
?
FOLLOW THAT CAB!
LIKE A LEECH, SIR!!
MEANWHILE
ONE THOUSAND BUCKS FOR O'BRIAN'S CARCASS!... THE PRICE OF MEAT SURE HAS GONE UP! I——??
WHAT ABOUT THIS EEL O'BRIAN?
THROW HIM OUT!.. HE SMELLS!
? ? ? ?

WHERE IS, HE?.. WHERE'S EEL O'BRIAN?
O'BRIANS FISH MARKET
JUST SNIFF AND COME IN ON THE BEAM! AND IT'S MISTER O'BRIAN T' YOU, SIR!
IMPUDENT UPSTART!.. HIS WATCH IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR MY HUMILIATION!
O'BRIAN'S FISH MARKET
?
WANTED
THE EEL!! AND PURSUED BY THE MAN I DE-WALLETED! SO THAT'S WHY HE HAD EEL'S PICTURE" HE'S AFTER THAT REWARD HIMSELF!!
I CAN'T LET A THOUSAND BUCKS GET AWAY WITHOUT A SCRAP!!
ATTA BOY, WOOZY!
OH, IT'S YOU! QUICK!.. HELP ME NAB O'BRIAN BEFORE THE OTHER GUY DOES AND I'LL SPLIT FIFTY-FIFTY W TH YOU ON THE REWARD!
THANKS, BUT I'VE ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU RIGHT NOW! GO TO THIS ADDRESS AND DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!...
.. AND REMEMBER FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS TO A "T"!
AW, GEEEEE..
$1000
BACK TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!.. HE'S STILL LOOKING FOR ME!... IT'D BE A SHAME TO DISAPPOINT HIM AFTER LURING HIM TO SUCH A FAVORABLE SPOT FOR UNDISTURBED MAYHEM!!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
!?
BAM!!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT REWARD, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT TO EARN IT !!
BUT-
BUG
...AND, TAKE MY WORD FOR IT... THIS ISN'T THE EASIEST WAY IN THE WORLD TO MAKE A GRAND !!
:: SPUTT.. BUT : SPUTT:: I'M NOT TRYING TO TURN YOU IN!
DON'T HYPO ME WITH THAT !! I HEARD YOU SAY YOU WERE OUT TO "GET" ME!!
OF COURSE I DID! I WANTED TO "GET" YOU FOR A BUSINESS PARTNER !!
WELL FOR- IS THIS ON THE HORIZONTAL?
WOULD I BE UNARMED IF I WEREN'T? ..STEN.. THE CHIEF KNOWS ALL ABOUT YOU!.. SAYS YOU'RE JUST THE MAN TO DISPOSE OF HIS GOODS, WHAT WITH YOUR CONNECTIONS AND ALL!
WHAT'S YOUR RACKET?
THE BLACK MARKET!
YOU MEAN, SELLING RATIONED GOODS AT EXORBITANT PRICES?
RIGHT!
WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MERCHANDISE?
THAT'S A SECRET, BUT I'LL SHOW YOU OUR WAREHOUSE !!
MEANWHILE, WOOZY HAS REACHED THE ADDRESS PLASTIC MAN GAVE HIM.
HEE HEE! SO YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE AT THE SEASIDE HOME FOR AGED MEN!.. ANY LIVING KIN?
NO! I'M MY ONLY BLOOD RELATION!
GOOD! GOOD!! YOU SEE WE DON'T ACCEPT ANYONE WITH OUTSIDE FAMILY TIES! HEE HEE! ELIMINATES COMPLICATIONS! HEE-HEE-HEE!
COME, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE BOYS!
HEE-HEE. LOOK BOYS!.. YOU'VE A NEW PLAYMATE!!
HOLY GEE! YOU CALL THAT PLAY??
YES HEE-HEE. RIGOROUS LOT AREN'T THEY? GRAB A FEW TIRES AND GET IN ON THE FUN!
PARDON ME BUT I SUDDENLY DISCOVERED I'M NOT READY TO RETIRE JUST YET!!

HEE HEE! I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT AS A FURTHER INDUCEMENT TO REMAIN, ALL EXITS ARE CHARGED WITH TWO THOUSAND VOLTS!!
COMPULSORY SLAVERY!! WHY, YOU WRETCH, I'LL
<???
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I ACCEPT YOUR "HOSPITALITY"!!
HEE HEE! I HOPED YOU WOULD!
O'BRIAN AGAIN!. AND ARM-IN-ARM WITH THE GUY WHO WAS AFTER HIM!!! YES, I'M STICKING AROUND!!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT? QUITE A RESERVOIR OF MERCHANDISE, EH?
THAT'S A GEM OF UNDER-STATEMENT! BUT WHY THE MODEL "T" MEN IN A MODEL "A" BUSINESS?
OH, THAT? WE HAD A GANG OF YOUNG BUCKS LAST YEAR, BUT THEY GOT CHARLIE... THEN PHIZZY AN' WELCHER.....
WHO? THE POLICE?
NO... THE DRAFT!! WHY, NO SOONER WOULD I BREAK IN A NEW HAND THAN THE ARMY WOULD NAB 'IM!! IT WAS DEPRESSING!
FINALLY, WE DECIDED TO OPEN A "HOME" FOR OLD MEN AS SORT OF A RECRUITING STATION! TRUE, WE HAVE TO...er...URGE THEM ON, BUT AT LEAST UNCLE SAM LETS US ALONE!
HA.HA! IT'S A PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS WITH SUCH A RESOURCEFUL MOB! NOW, IF I CAN SEE THE BIG CHIEF...!
SORRY O'BRIAN... I CAN'T GRANT YOUR REQUEST! BUT IF YOU WANT TO JOIN UP, DROP IN MONDAY NIGHT FOR A LOAD!!
THAT'S THE CHIEF!.. SEES ALL, HEARS ALL... WITH MIKES! NOT EVEN I HAVE EVER SEEN 'IM!
CHIEF, YOU ARE RESOURCEFUL! THE DEAL IS OKAY BY ME, SO I'LL BE SEEING YOU LATER!
LATER, AT THE "HOME"
PARDON, FRIEND I JUST SAW YOU COME IN'. THEY GET YOU, TOO?
SIXTY YEARS I'VE WORKED... HARD, TOO! FINALLY, I SAYS TO MYSELF: "JED SMITH, IT'S TIME TO REST!" SO I CAME HERE TO RETIRE!. AND NOW— I-I DONT UNDER-STAND IT!!
SHH! YOU MUSTN'T TALK!! THE VERY WALLS HAVE EARS!! I'M TAKING A CHANCE EVEN TO WARN YOU, BUT YOU'RE NEW HERE AND I'D HATE TO SEE YOU SUFFER AS OTHERS HAVE!
MISTER KINDLY! REPORT TO THE DISCIPLINE CHAMBER AT ONCE!!!
WHO'S KINDLY?
M-ME!
GOOD GRIEF! HE HEARD YOU!


OHHHHH NOOO! PLEASE!! IN THE NAME OF MERCY!!
CRACK!!
BAM!!
CRACK!
SOB, SOB.. SEE...WHAT I MEAN? SOB...
LET ME AT THAT SAVAGE!!
DON'T!.. YOU'LL ONLY REGRET IT!
JUST THE SAME, I -
ATTENTION, MEN!.. PREPARE TO SAIL AT ONCE!!
SAIL?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! OBEY ORDERS!!
OIL
WHEREUPON THE AGED MEN FILE DOWN INTO A HUGE SUBTERRANEAN CAVE.....
BLESS MY BRITCHES!! A SUBMARINE BASE!!!
WH.. WHAT DO THEY NTEND TO DO?
CAN'T TELL YOU! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
WITH ALARMING RAP DITY, THE SUB IS MANNED AND LAUNCHED...
HOUR UPON HOUR, THE MEN TRAVEL IN SILENCE. EACH ATTEMPT AT CONVERSATION IS DROWNED OUT WITH A LOUD..
QUIET IN THE RANKS!!
SCON'S I FIND WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT I'LL RIP YOU APART, WHOEVER YOU ARE!
AT LENGTH, HEE-HEE SHOUTS...
SHIP AHEAD! HEE-HEE!
SLOW DOWN TO FIVE KNOTS AND FOLLOW AT A SAFE DISTANCE!!
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH!! YOU'RE NOT TORPEDOING ANY ALLIED SHIP WHILE I'M HERE!
FOOL! WE DON'T HAVE TO BOMB THEM! HITLER DOES IT FOR US!!
HEE-HEE! DISCIPLINE HIM!
DO YOU HEAR, HEE-HEE?
BUT A NAZI SUBMARINE HAS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE!
YOU MEAN YOU FOLLOW SHIPS AROUND WAITING FOR THEM TO BE SUNK?
7

MOMENTARILY, A TORPEDO FINDS ITS MARK

BOOOM

FULL AHEAD! DON YOUR DIVING SUITS!!..... I'LL ATTEND TO YOU LATER, WINKS!

CASHEWS TO YOU!!

AS THE TANKER SINKS.....

STOP ENGINES!.. DON DIVING HELMETS AND ENTER PRESSURE CHAMBER!. WE'RE TAKING ON THAT CARGO!

NO WONDER YOUR WAREHOUSE IS BULGING, WITH FIVE HUNDRED ALLIED SINKINGS TO PICK OVER!!

PLEASE, WINKS, YOU'RE ONLY ASKING FOR TROUBLE.

BUT A SAILOR BELATEDLY ESCAPES FROM THE TANKER AND SEES....

? ? ?

UNBELIEVABLE! I-I-ONLY HOPE I LIVE TO TELL MY STORY!!

THE WORK OF TRANSFERRING CARGO BEGINS..

HOW YOU TWO MAKING OUT? NEED ANY HELP?

NO! THANKS WE CAN MAKE IT!

WINKS! KINDLY!! SMITH!! NO LOITERING!

AW, CLAM UP, WINDY! YOU WOULD FIX THIS TWO-WAY RADIO SO I CAN'T TURN IT OFF!

SMITH!.. HELP!!..

GIANT SQUID!!

LOOK OUT, SMITH!. IT'S GOT YOU, TOO!!

NEVER MIND ME.... GET KINDLY TO SAFETY!!

REACHING THE SUB, THE MEN RECEIVE A SURPRISE AS THEY VIEW THE BATTLE

LOOK!! NOW THERE ARE TWO SQUIDS!!— AND SMITH IS GONE!!

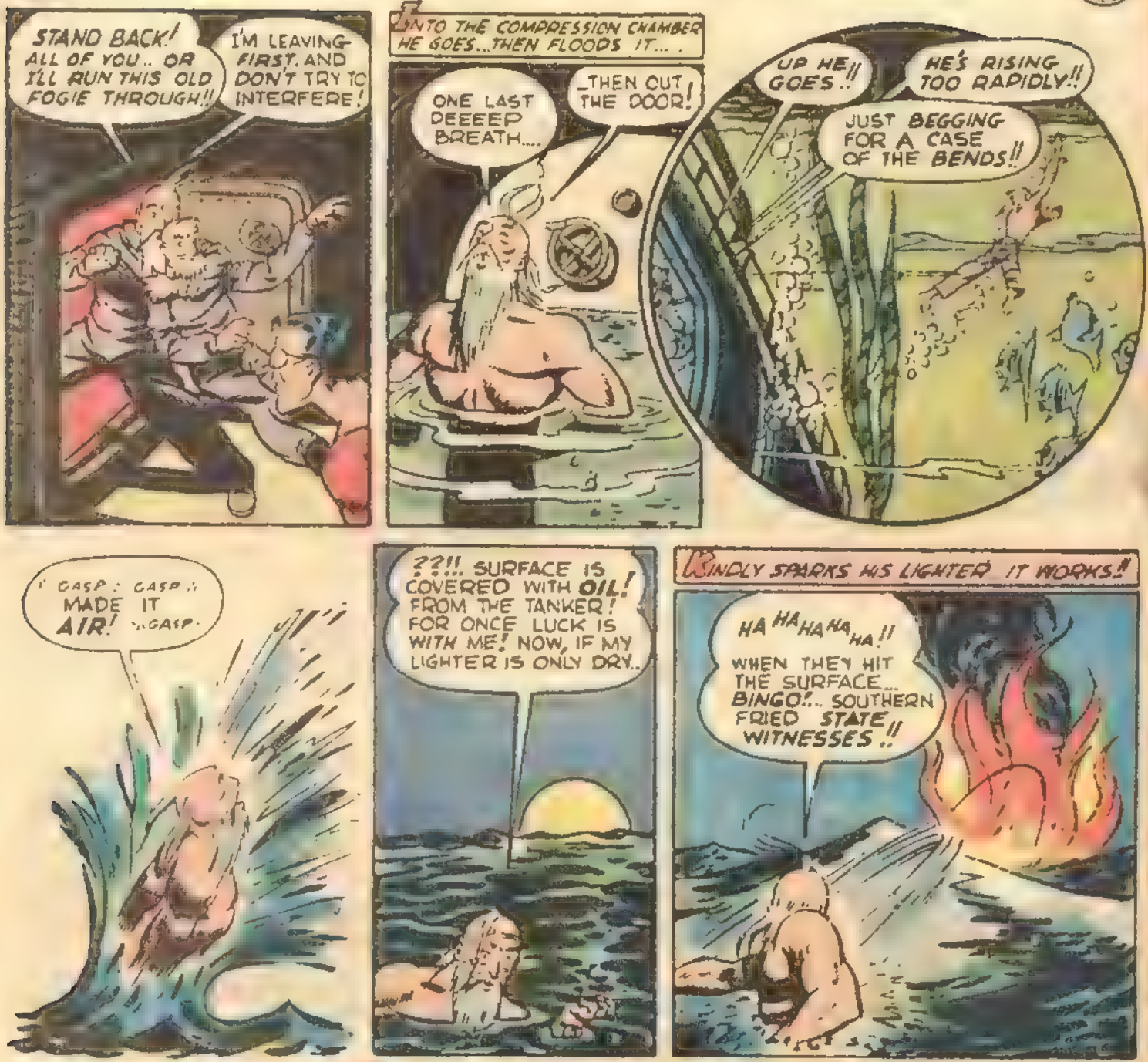
THAT'S NO SQUID.. IT-IT'S PLASTIC MAN!!

THEN PLASTIC MAN IS SMITH!!

WHY, TH' DIRTY COPPER!!

YAY PLASTIC MAN!!
HEE-HEE!.. SQUEEZE HIM IN TWO, SQUIDDIE! HEE-HEE-HEE!!
GWAN, THAT SQUID IS AS GOOD AS DEAD!
YEAH, DEAD LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING!
THE SQUID IS RELEASING ITS BLACK FLUID!
HEE-HEE! GOOD BYE, INDIA RUBBER COP!
SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR BUTTING INTO MY AFFAIRS!!
I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR WINDY TO PPE UP!
IN TENSE SILENCE, THEY WATCH AN INKY BLOT FOR SOME SIGN OF THE TIDE OF BATTLE ....
FINALLY AFTER TORTUROUS WAITING
HE DID IT!! IT'S PLASTIC MAN!!
THREE CHEERS FOR PLASTIC MAN!!
NOW HE'LL FREE US!!
DON'T FEEL TOO OPTIMISTIC! HES LOCKED OUT! FULL AHEAD! LET HIM DROWN!!
OVER MY DEAD BODY!! I'M GONNA LET HIM IN!
LET HIM HAVE IT HEE-HEE!!
OW!
GOOD OLD MOTHER NATURE, STILL IN THERE PROTECTIN ME!
NOW HOW DO WE UNLOCK THIS PRESSURE CHAMBER??
BAM
NEVER MIND, WINKS, I USED THE BACK DOOR
HUH?? OH, THERE YOU ARE!
HE BROKE THE PERISCOPE GLASS!!
GM*!!
PLUG THE PERISCOPE AND GRAB HIM!!
YOU HEARD HIM.. OR WOULD YOU RATHER OBEY ME AND HEAD FOR HOME!!?
WHAT CHOICE HAVE WE?
START UP MOTORS!!
DESERTING SWINE! I'LL MURDER THE LOT OF YOU!
MEANWHILE, ON THE SURFACE ABOVE....
ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T DREAMING?
POSITIVE!! I SAW IT AS I LEFT THE SUB.. MEN POURING FROM A SUB— UNDERSEA PIRATES!
RELEASE DEPTH CHARGES!

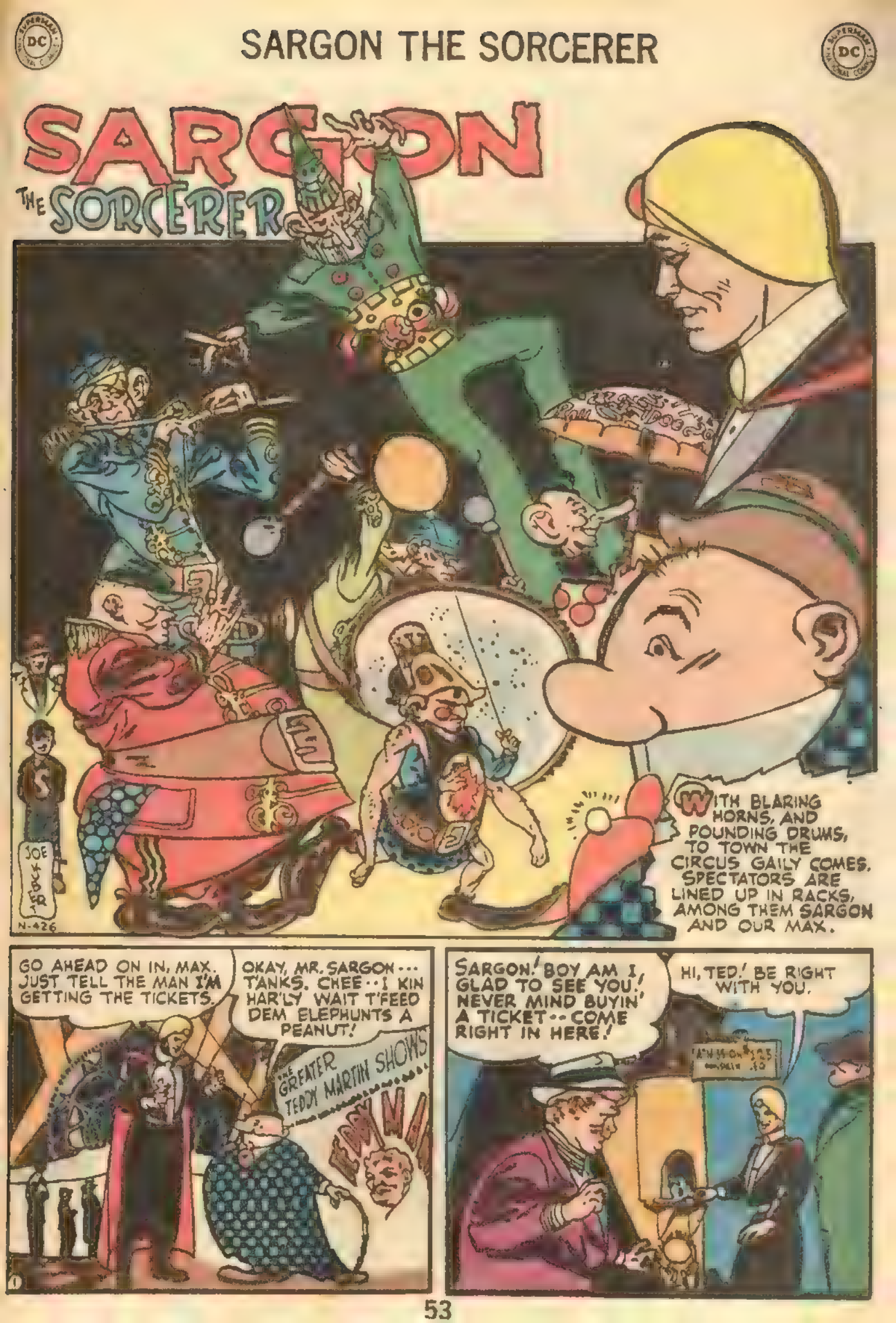
BOOM!
AND INSIDE THE SUB....
GOOD GRIEF!
DEPTH BOMB!!
THE MOTOR'S STOPPED!!
WE'RE DOOMED!
BURIED ALIVE!!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
AIR! I WANT AIR!
SILENCE! I'LL DROP THE NEXT MAN WHO MOVES!
HIS VOICE HAS A SOBERING EFFECT ON THE MEN...
NOW, LISTEN: WE CAN ALL ESCAPE ALIVE IF YOU'LL ONLY CALM DOWN! BUT FIRST I WANT YOUR COOPERATION IN SMOKING THE REAL BOSS OF THIS RACKET INTO THE OPEN!
BUT HOW?
WHAT CAN WE DO?
LOOK AT YOUR NEIGHBOR WELL, FOR ONE OF YOU IS THE RAT WE WANT!! HAVE YOU MEN NERVE ENOUGH TO SIT HERE UNTIL THE GUILTY ONE CONFESSES?
BUT IF HE DOESN'T CRACK?
HE WILL! I NEVER SAW A CROOK YET WHO WASN'T YELLOW!!
THUS BEGINS AN AMAZING MARATHON ON THE OCEAN FLOOR... THE GOOD STRIVING TO OUT-WAIT THE GUILTY!.. WHO WILL CRACK FIRST?
AS THE AIR GROWS FOUL, EVERY FACE MIRRORS THE AGONY OF BREATHING
I CAN'T STAND IT! YOU WIN... ONLY GIVE ME AIR!!
KINDLY!! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE!!
PASS THE HELMETS AROUND, WINKS!.. NOW, TALK BUT FAST!!
I POSED AS ONE OF MY OWN SLAVES IN ORDER TO KEEP TAB ON EVERYTHING THEY SAID AND DID! I COULD CONTROL THEM BETTER THAT WAY... AND KEEP MY IDENTITY A SECRET! I EVEN FAKED THAT BEATING TO DIVERT SUSPICION FROM MYSELF!
BUT THE VOICE! IT NEVER CAME FROM YOUR DIRECTION!
I'M A VENTRILOQUIST! NOW PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON AN OLD MAN!!
10
YOU'RE NOT EVEN THAT, KINDLY!.. THE FACE LIFTING JOB IS GOOD, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR YOUNG BODY!
BLESS MY BONES!
THE LOW SNAKE! LET'S KILL HIM!


STAND BACK! ALL OF YOU.. OR I'LL RUN THIS OLD FOGIE THROUGH!!
I'M LEAVING FIRST, AND DON'T TRY TO INTERFERE!
INTO THE COMPRESSION CHAMBER HE GOES...THEN FLOODS IT....
ONE LAST DEEEEP BREATH....
_THEN OUT THE DOOR!
UP HE GOES!!
HE'S RISING TOO RAPIDLY!!
JUST BEGGING FOR A CASE OF THE BENDS!!
GASP! GASP! MADE IT AIR! GASP.
??!! SURFACE IS COVERED WITH OIL! FROM THE TANKER! FOR ONCE LUCK IS WITH ME! NOW, IF MY LIGHTER IS ONLY DRY..
KINDLY SPARKS HIS LIGHTER IT WORKS!!
HA HA HA HA HA!! WHEN THEY HIT THE SURFACE... BINGO!.. SOUTHERN FRIED STATE WITNESSES!!

MEANWHILE THE MEN BELOW PREPARE TO SURFACE FROM THE CHAMBER.....
ALL HELMETS IN PLACE?
YES, BUT HOW CAN WE RISE WITH ALL THIS WEIGHT?
JUST HANG ONTO MY LEGS! AND WAIT.
EMERGING, THE MAN OF RUBBER S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-S UPWARD..
THIS'LL TAKE A LITTLE TIME, MEN! GOT TO STOP EVERY TWENTY FEET TO EQUALIZE THE NITROGEN IN THE BODY!
FINALLY, HE BREAKS SURFACE.
WOW!! THE WHOLE WORLD'S AFIRE!!

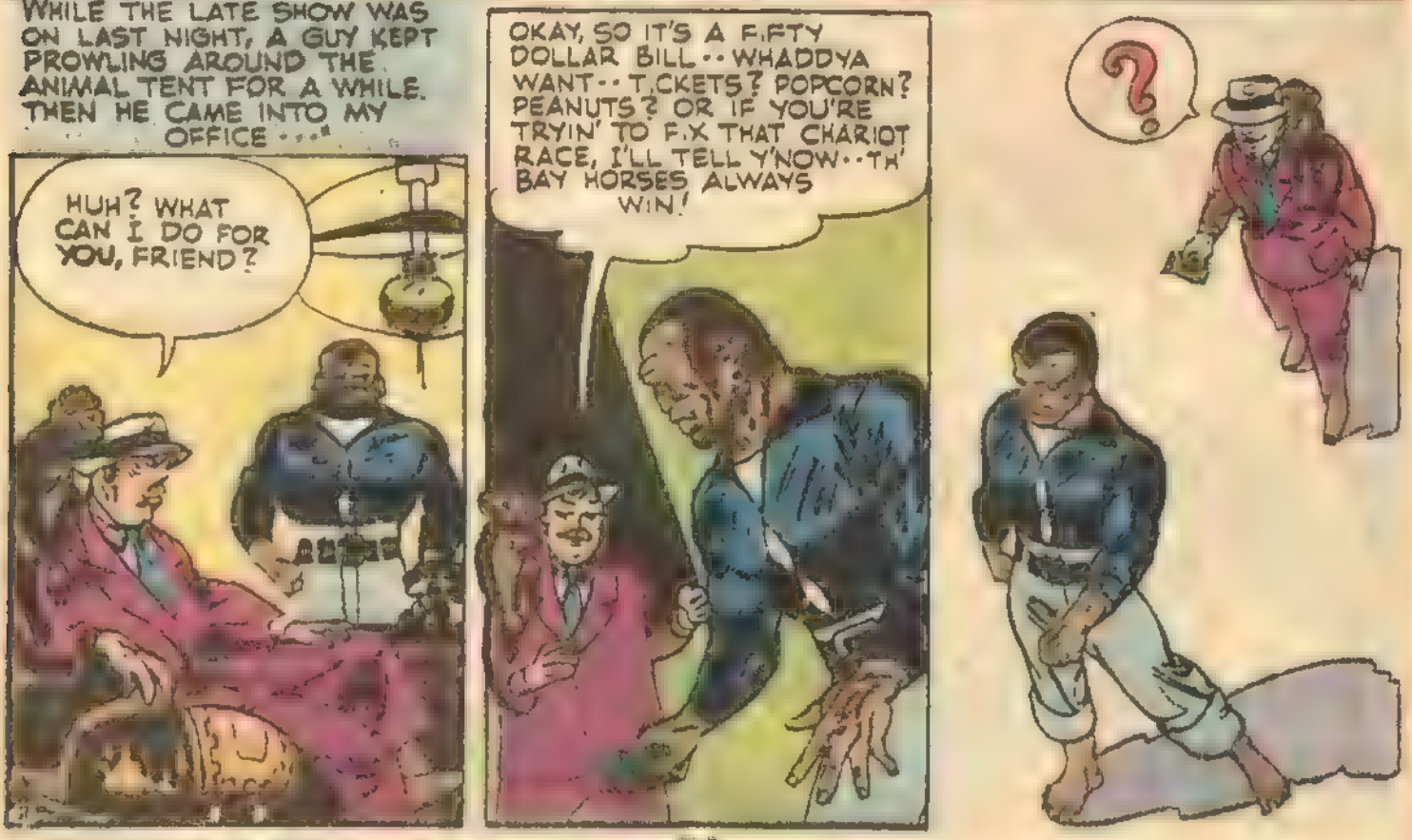
AGAIN HE SUBMERGES...
MIGHT BE ABLE TO STRETCH BEYOND IT!
AHH!.. BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE A BLIMP TO FLOAT THEM UP!
LUNGS EXPANDED, PLASTIC MAN BECOMES BUOYANT ENOUGH TO RAISE THE MEN...
THIRD FLOOR— LADIES' HOSIERY, SHOES, SLIPS...
PLEASE, WINKS. THIS IS SERIOUS!
AT LENGTH THEY REACH AIR.
BLUE SKIES!!
PRETTIEST SIGHT OF MY LIFE!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE IT AGAIN!
WHERE'S KINDLY?
IF HE CAME UP IN THAT FIRE HE'S DONE!!
WHAT'S THAT SPLASHING NEAR THE FLAMES?
ONLY A FISH! THE FIRE ATTRACTS THEM, AS I HOPE IT WILL A RESCUE SHIP!!
BUT HAD THEY BEEN CLOSER, THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN
OHHHHHHH! THE BENDS!! CAN'T SWIM! FLAMES OVERTAKING ME!!
EEK!! NO!!
BUT HIS CRIES ARE UNHEARD BECAUSE:
SHIP AHOY!!
IT'S COMING THIS WAY!!
WE'RE SAVED!!
AND WE OWE IT ALL TO PLASTIC MAN!!
THREE CHEERS FOR PLASTIC AND WOOZY!!
HIP-HIP HOORAY!!
HIP-HIP HOORAY!!!
HIP-HIP HOORAY!!!!
HA!

FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW. HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW...
GULP. THAT SALT WATER KINDA SMARTS THE EYES.
YEAH SURE DOES!
AND AS THEY HOMEWARD ROLL, A WRETCHED SOUL RETURNS ONCE MORE TO THE OCEAN'S FLOOR TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIS DENIZEN OF THE SEA...
LATER, ON SHORE...
SO YOU KNEW SMITH WAS ME ALL THE TIME!.. YOU OLD SONUVAGUN, HOW'D YOU PENETRATE MY DISGUISE?
I KINDA HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT WHEN I PICKED YOUR POCKETS, THIS IS ALL I FOUND!
POLICE
WOOZY, YOU'RE HOPELESS! YOU MUST RETURN EVERYTHING YOU STOLE!
SAY! I NEARLY FORGOT. EEL O'BRIAN IS DUE AT KINDLY'S PLACE TONIGHT! OH, BOY!.. ME FOR THAT REWARD!!
LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE HOME:
REACH, O'BRIAN!!.. YOU AND ME GOT A DATE AT HEADQUARTERS!
HERE HE IS!! MAKE WITH THE CASH, BOYS!
THE EEL HIMSELF! I TAKE BACK ALL I EVER SAID ABOUT YOU!
LOCK 'IM UP, MIKE!
800-900-ONE THOUSAND BUCKS!! EASIEST DOUGH I EVER EARNED!
HOW ABOUT A CUT, BUD... DON'T I DESERVE SOMETHING, TOO?
BLESS MY—
HEY WOOZY!.. O'BRIAN'S ESCAPED AGAIN!!
WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
HERES YOUR MONEY BACK!
ARE YOU NUTS? IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT HE GOT AWAY!
YEAH, WHAT'S TH' IDEA?
A GUY THAT SLICK COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY A PUNK LIKE ME! THE WHOLE THING JUST DIDN'T HAPPEN!!
13


SARGON
THE SORCERER
WITH BLARING HORNS, AND POUNDING DRUMS, TO TOWN THE CIRCUS GAILY COMES. SPECTATORS ARE LINED UP IN RACKS, AMONG THEM SARGON AND OUR MAX.
JOE SIMON
N-426
GO AHEAD ON IN, MAX. JUST TELL THE MAN I'M GETTING THE TICKETS.
OKAY, MR. SARGON ... T'ANKS. CHEE .. I KIN HAR'LY WAIT T'FEED DEM ELEPHUNTS A PEANUT!
THE GREATER TEDDY MARTIN SHOWS
SARGON! BOY AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! NEVER MIND BUYIN' A TICKET .. COME RIGHT IN HERE!
HI, TED! BE RIGHT WITH YOU.

HEY, MISTER! Y'LEFT YOUR MONEY ON THE COUNTER!
I DID?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TRUDGING ALL THE WAY BACK THERE··
MONEY, COME HERE!
WHICH MAY LOOK LIKE FUNNY BUSINESS TO YOU, UNLESS YOU REALIZE THAT SARGON THE SORCERER WEARS THE MAGICAL RUBY OF LIFE···
··AND WHEN SARGON SPEAKS A WORD OF COMMAND TO ANY PERSON OR THING HE'S TOUCHED, LIKE THE MONEY HE LEFT BEHIND, HE, SHE, OR IT MUST OBEY!
WHA··? I ONCE HEARD MONEY HAD WINGS·· NOW I BELIEVE IT!
COME TO PAPA!

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, TED?
I'M IN A FUNNY SPOT, SARGON. LEMME TELL Y'ABOUT IT WHILE WE WALK BACK T'MY OFFICE.


WHILE THE LATE SHOW WAS ON LAST NIGHT, A GUY KEPT PROWLING AROUND THE ANIMAL TENT FOR A WHILE. THEN HE CAME INTO MY OFFICE···
HUH? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, FRIEND?
OKAY, SO IT'S A FIFTY DOLLAR BILL·· WHADDYA WANT·· TICKETS? POPCORN? PEANUTS? OR IF YOU'RE TRYIN' TO FIX THAT CHARIOT RACE, I'LL TELL Y'NOW·· TH' BAY HORSES ALWAYS WIN!
?

"BEFORE I REALIZED WHAT'D HAPPENED, HE WAS GONE ... WELL, A COUPLA MINUTES LATER, OVER AT TH' ANIMAL TENT..."
HEY, WHAT'RE Y' TRYIN' T'DO -- GIT YOUR ARM BIT OFF? KEEP AWAY FROM THAT LION CAGE!
I SAID GIT AWAY FROM THAT CAT!
MIKE! LOOK OVER BY TH' LION CAGE!
I SEE 'IM!
HEY RUBE!
GASP! D-DON'T GET ROUGH NOW! COUGH!
YOU ASK FER TROUBLE, YOU'LL GET IT, JACK!
AAAARRR
ROAR
OKAY, SO Y'CAN IMITATE ANIMALS! Y'OUGHTA BE ON TH' RADIO, BUT- HUH?
LOOK AT 'IM!
HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
CALL THE COPS.. AHH -- IT'S TOO LATE!

..AND WE AIN'T SEEN THIS GUY SINCE. THAT LION SET ME BACK $5,000 AND I'M NOT TAKIN' ANY CHANCES, SEE? I'M EVEN KEEPIN' OUR STRONG MAN ON GUARD IN THE ANIMAL TENT!
SO WHERE DO I COME IN?
LOOK, SARGON, YOU'RE A SMART GUY. SMARTER'N ANY PRIVATE DETECTIVES I COULD HIRE. I'LL PAY YOU WELL TO KEEP THAT LION SAFE!
WELL, I HATE TO MISS THE CIRCUS SHOW, BUT.. WELL, OKAY, TEO. I'LL DO IT!
IN THE MEANTIME ...
I'VE TOLD YA FIFTEEN MILLION TIMES, MY BOSS, MR. SARGON, IS BUYIN' DA TICKETS! I WANNA FEED DA ELEPHUNTS!
AN' I'M TELLIN' YA SIXTEEN MILLION TIMES Y'CAN'T COME IN WITHOUT NO TICKET! NOW SCRAM!
DA STINGY OL' CRAB.. NOW DA SHOW'S STARTED, AN' I WON'T EVEN SEE DEM ELEPHUNTS!..
USETA DO DIS WHEN I WAS A YOUNGSTER! MORE FUN THAN PAYIN', ANYHOW!
HUFFANPUFF! I AIN'T AS YOUNG AS I USETA BE!
NOW TA GET ME PEANUTS AN' FEED DOSE POOR, HUNGRY ELEPHUNTS!
OH! PODDIN ME, PLEASE, I'M LOOKIN' FER DA ELEPHUNTS!..S..
S'LONG...
NO YA DON'T!
Yap!

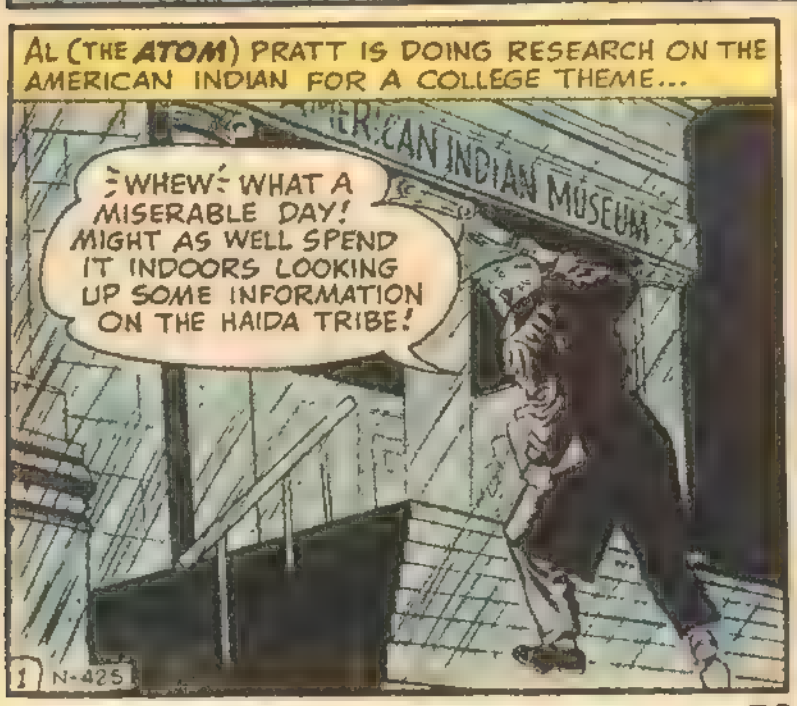
WE GIVE ALL GATE CRASHERS TH' GATE AN' ... HOLY MIKE! IT'S MAXIMILLIAN O'LEARY, ME OLD PAL!
HUSKY GRZRYKZI, ME OLD PAL!
I'M TH' STRONG MAN AT THIS HERE CIRCUS, MAXIE! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' FOR A LIVIN'?
I WOIK FER SARGON DA SORCERER! HE WAS S'POSED T'POICHASE A TICKET FER ME, AN--
THE LION'S LOOSE!!
RUN FER YER LIVES!
PICKING OUT WHAT LOOKS LIKE THE CHOICEST MORSEL FOR A MEAL, THE LION BOUNDS OFF IN PURSUIT OF THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE--
GET THE RIFLES OUTTA TH' RACK!
RUN, MAXIMILLIAN!
RUN!
I GOT TWO LEGS-- HE'S GOT FOUR!
LOOK AT THE CLOWN! AND THAT FUNNY LION CHASIN' HIM!! HA! HA!
GREAT SCOTT! YOUR LION'S GOT MAX!
HAW! HAW! THAT CLOWNS A RIOT!!
THEY'RE PLAYING ROLL OUT THE BARREL- HA! HA! HA!
THAT LION'S A KILLER, SARGON!.. STAY AWAY!
CAN'T HELP THAT, TED!

HIT HIM!
AND KEEP HIM BUSY! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, MEN!
SHOOT THAT LION!
MBANTU!
WHAT?
MBANTU NGALAH! MBANTU NGALAH!
ANGHALA MBANTU NGALAH!
PURRR
TED! THAT'S IT! THE MAN'S FROM AFRICA! I'LL BET HE RAISED THAT BEAST FROM A KITTEN! HE WAS JUST TRYING TO BUY IT BACK FROM YOU!
WELL, IF THE GUY'S THAT FOND OF THE CAT, MAYBE I CAN GET HIM TO JOIN THE CIRCUS AND TAKE CARE OF IT.
LATER..
CHEE--I T'OUGHT I WASN'T NEVER GONNA GIT T'FEED DA ELEPHUNTS--NOW I'M HAPPY!!
WAIT TILL HE THINKS TO LOOK AT THOSE FANCY DUDS OF HIS!
I HATE TO THINK OF IT, THE WAY HE GOES FOR CLOTHES!

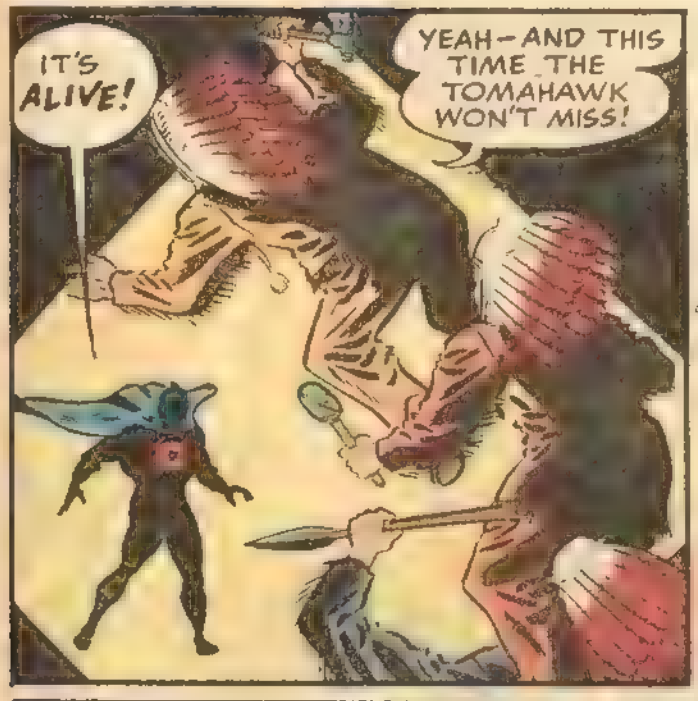
THIS ADVENTURE OF **SARGON** ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN **SENSATION COMICS** #57 (SEPT., 1946)

THE GOLDEN AGE ATOM

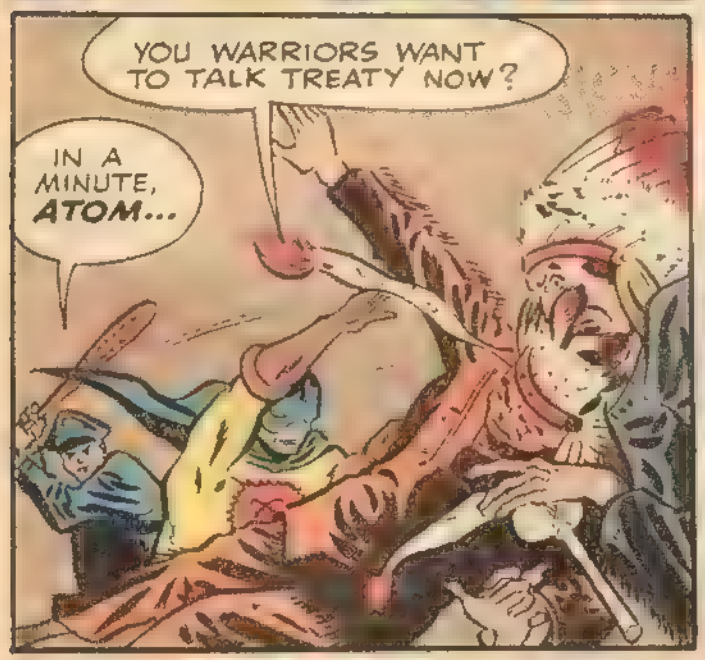
A GOLDEN AGE STORY— NEVER PUBLISHED BEFORE
RESEARCH ON THE REMAINS OF THE PAST CAN BE AS DRY AS THE DUST THAT COVERS THEM. BUT SUDDENLY, HISTORY BECOMES TERRIFYINGLY ALIVE AS THE SPIRITS OF THE EXTINCT HAIDA INDIAN TRIBE COME BACK TO WARN THE ATOM WITH A MESSAGE OF DEATH! THE MIGHTY MITE FOLLOWS A WAR-PATH OF MYSTERY TO SOLVE THE EERIE SECRET OF...
"DANGER IN THE TOTEM'S EYE!"


AL (THE ATOM) PRATT IS DOING RESEARCH ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN FOR A COLLEGE THEME...
WHEW! WHAT A MISERABLE DAY! MIGHT AS WELL SPEND IT INDOORS LOOKING UP SOME INFORMATION ON THE HAIDA TRIBE!
AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM
1 N-425

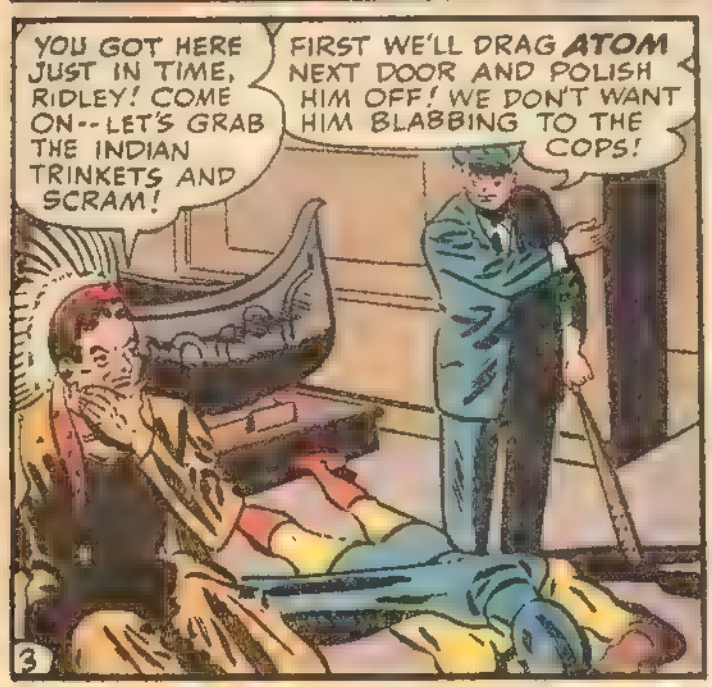
YOU HEARD ME! NOW, BEAT IT!
BUT THE SIGN OUTSIDE SAID IT WOULD BE OPEN TILL 9 O'CLOCK!
Y-YEAH! I GUESS IT DID! OKAY- GO RIGHT IN!
GOSH, WHAT A QUICK TURNABOUT! I'D BETTER GET IN-SIDE BEFORE HE CHANGES HIS MIND AGAIN!
THE HAIDA INDIAN TRIBE CARRIED THE PECULIAR NATIVE CULTURE OF THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST TO ITS HIGHEST PITCH. THE EXAMPLES OF THEIR WORK STILL EXISTING ARE INVALUABLE!
I BETTER SKETCH THESE OBJECTS FOR MY REPORT- ULP! A FLYING TOMAHAWK!
SWISH!
2
INDIAN SPIRITS DON'T THROW TOMAHAWKS- ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'VE BEEN DEAD OVER 500 YEARS. LOOKS LIKE THIS PROJECT NEEDS ATOMIC RESEARCH!
AL PRATT DUCKS INTO AN INDIAN "LONG HOUSE" AND SWITCHES TO THE POWERHOUSE CRIME-FIGHTER -- THE ATOM! THEN...
I WAS STANDING NEAR THAT TOTEM POLE WHEN -- HEY! IT'S MOVING!

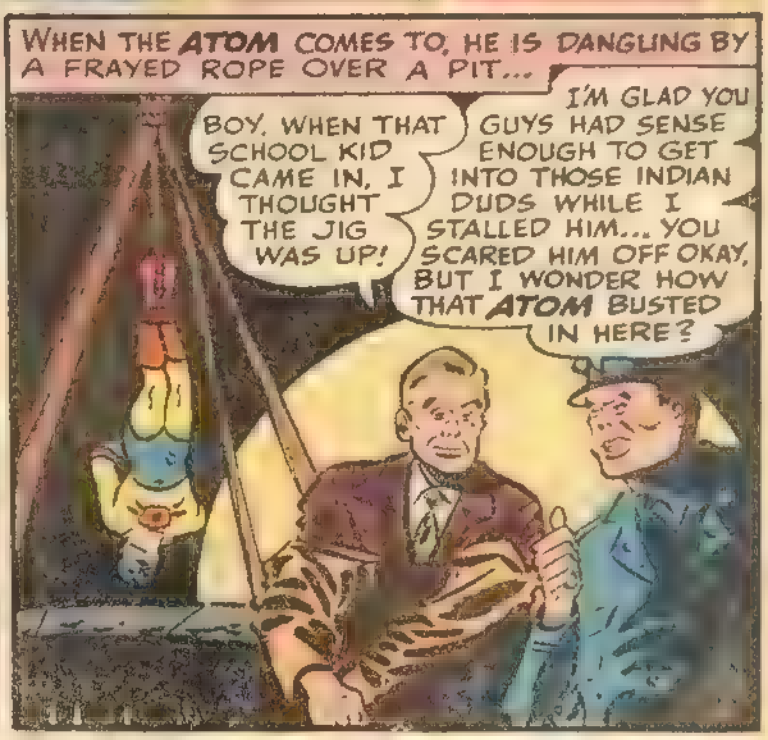

IT'S ALIVE!
YEAH—AND THIS TIME THE TOMAHAWK WON'T MISS!

MY TOMAHAWK'S SHARPER--IT'S GOT KNUCKLES!
UNNH!


YOU WARRIORS WANT TO TALK TREATY NOW?
IN A MINUTE, ATOM...

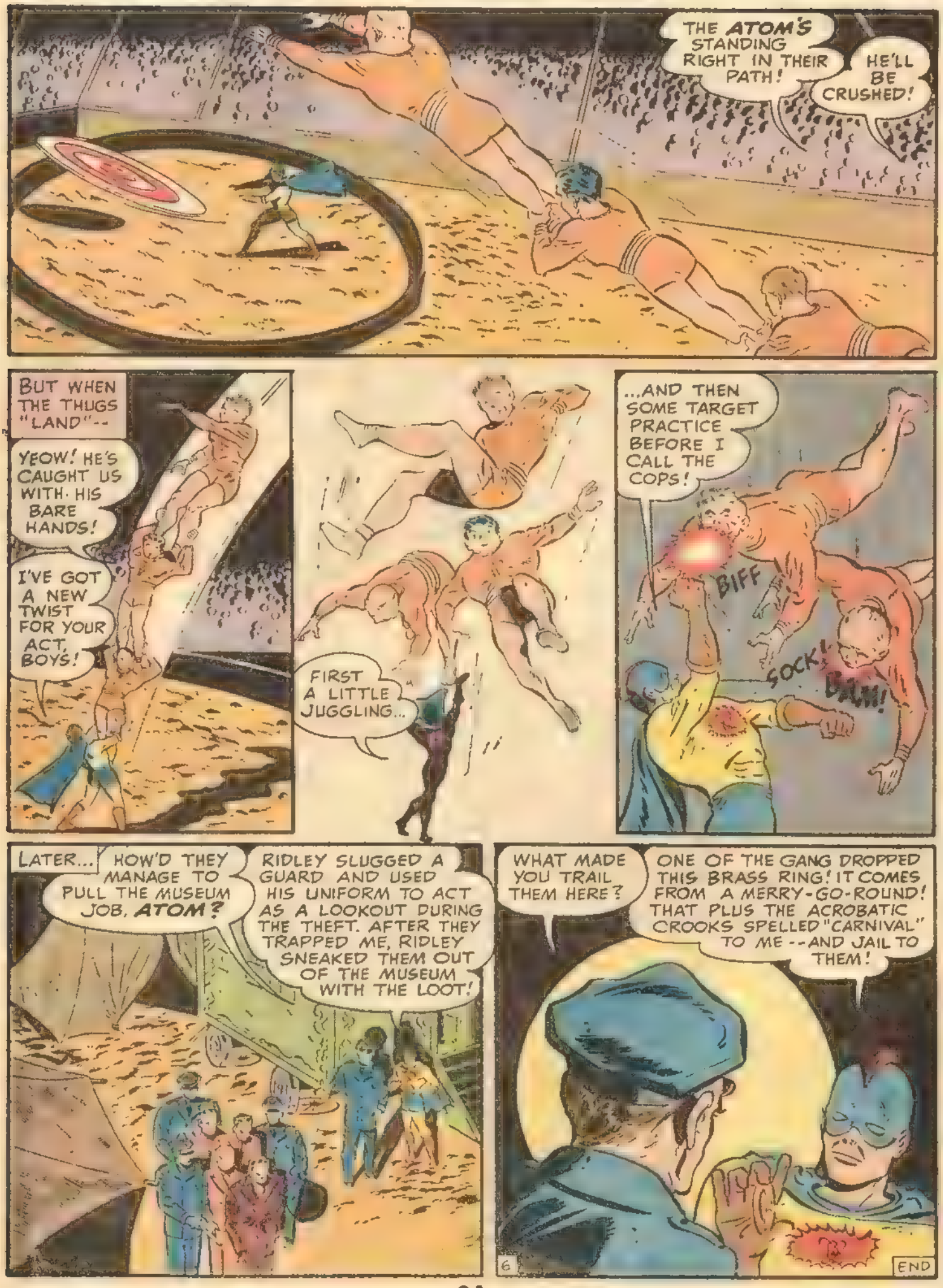
TRY MY PEACE PIPE FIRST!
THUD!
AAAHGG!

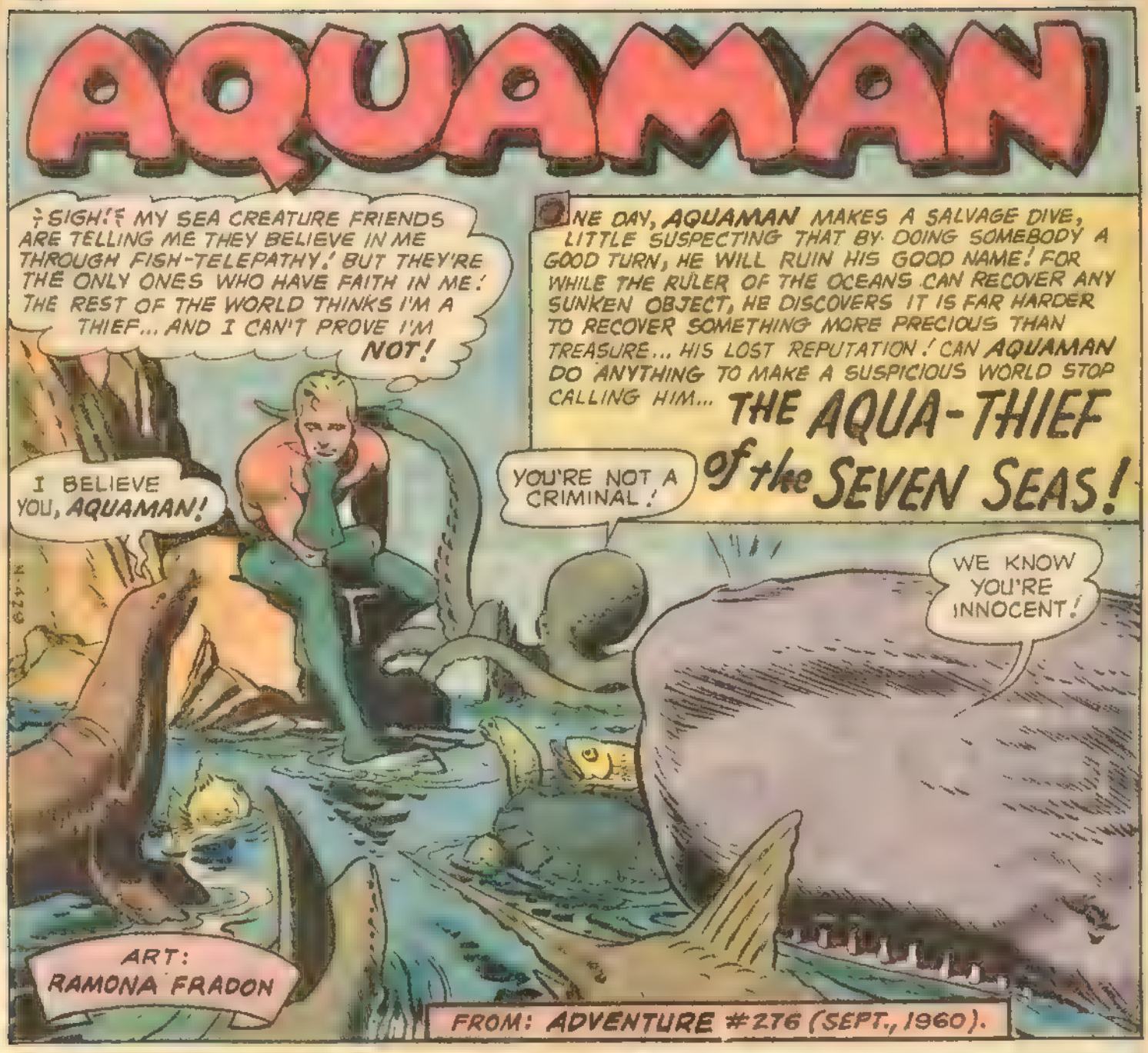

YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, RIDLEY! COME ON--LET'S GRAB THE INDIAN TRINKETS AND SCRAM!
FIRST WE'LL DRAG ATOM NEXT DOOR AND POLISH HIM OFF! WE DON'T WANT HIM BLABBING TO THE COPS!
3

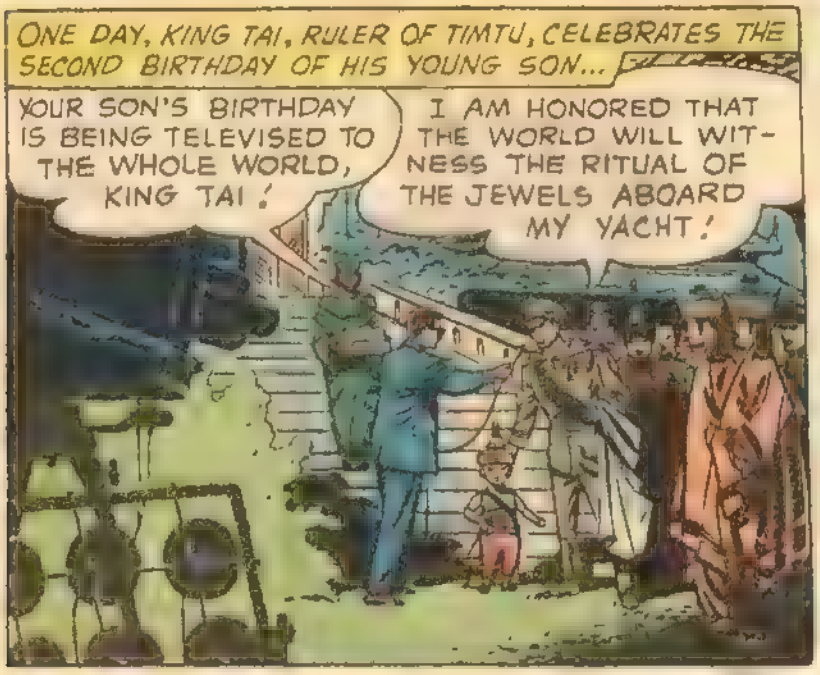

WHEN THE ATOM COMES TO, HE IS DANGLING BY A FRAYED ROPE OVER A PIT...
BOY, WHEN THAT SCHOOL KID CAME IN, I THOUGHT THE JIG WAS UP!
I'M GLAD YOU GUYS HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO GET INTO THOSE INDIAN DUDS WHILE I STALLED HIM... YOU SCARED HIM OFF OKAY, BUT I WONDER HOW THAT ATOM BUSTED IN HERE?

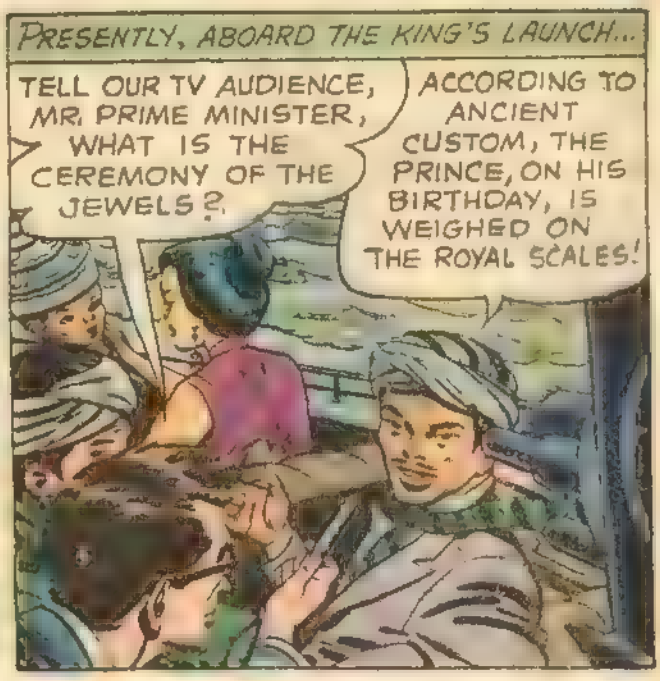
HERE'S A TIP, ATOM! IF YOU DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE, THAT BEAT-UP ROPE WON'T SNAP... FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES!
A PIT FULL OF KNIVES BENEATH ME - AND MY LIFE'S HANGING BY A WORN-OUT THREAD!
HA! HA!
SUDDENLY, THE MIGHTY MITE STARTS SWINGING HIS BODY BACK AND FORTH OVER THE PIT...
WELL, AS LONG AS I HAVE TO FALL, I MIGHT AS WELL FALL-- UP!
TOO SHORT A SWING! PROBABLY HAVE ONLY ONE MORE CHANCE BEFORE THE ROPE GIVES WAY!
SWINGING FURIOUSLY, THE ATOM REACHES THE TOP OF HIS ARC AGAIN JUST AS THE ROPE SNAPS...
SNAP!
...TIMED IT JUST RIGHT!
A MOMENT LATER...
THEY CLEANED OUT THE INDIAN RELICS HERE, BUT THEY'VE LEFT A BRASS RING! I WONDER...
4

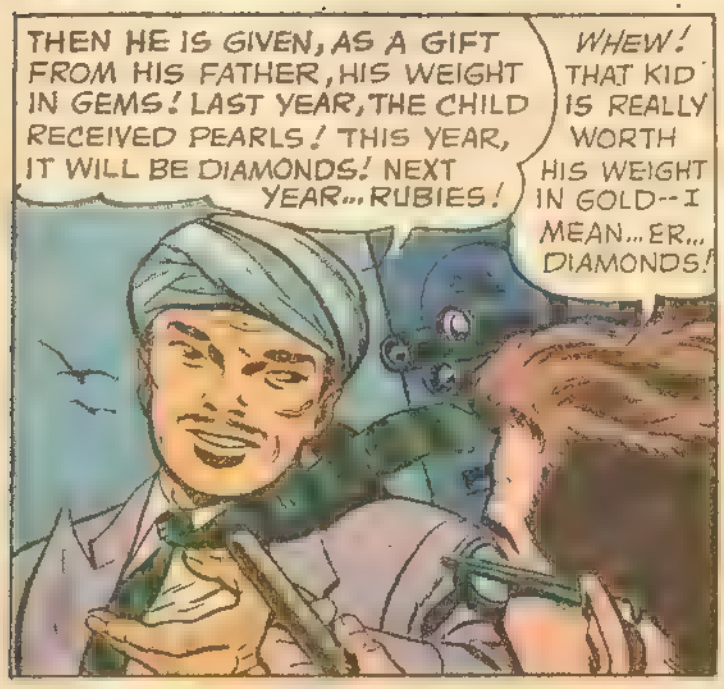
I HOPE THIS BRASS RING ISN'T LEADING ME ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE!
15 MINUTES LATER THE ATOMIC BOMB-SHELL REACHES A CARNIVAL...
MY HUNCH WORKED! THIS IS WHERE THOSE TOTEM ACROBATS HANG OUT.
SEE THE AMAZING FARADS in their DEATH-DEFYING ACT "SHOT TO SPACE"
ADMISSION 25¢
INSIDE THE BIG TENT--THE AMAZING FARADS ARE ABOUT TO GO INTO THEIR ACT WHEN.
THE ATOM!
SO YOU PACK HIDDEN ARTILLERY, TOO!
THERE GOES THE TRIGGER RELEASE!
BOOM!
POW!
THE ACROBATIC CROOKS ARE HURLED INTO SPACE---
LOOK! THEY'RE GOING TO GRAB ONE ANOTHER IN MID-AIR!
A TERRIFIC STUNT--IF THEY DO IT!
5

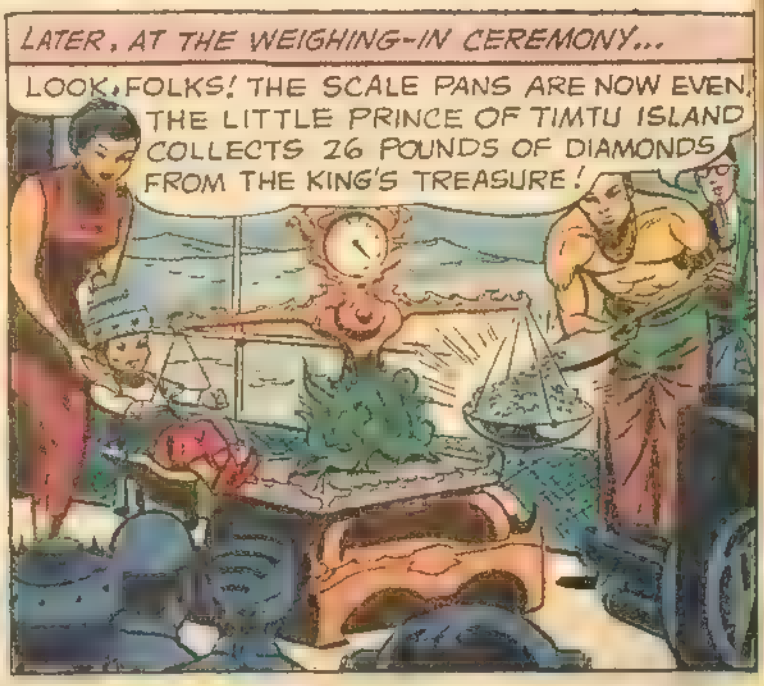

THE ATOM'S STANDING RIGHT IN THEIR PATH!
HE'LL BE CRUSHED!
BUT WHEN THE THUGS "LAND"--
YEOW! HE'S CAUGHT US WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
I'VE GOT A NEW TWIST FOR YOUR ACT, BOYS!
FIRST A LITTLE JUGGLING...
...AND THEN SOME TARGET PRACTICE BEFORE I CALL THE COPS!
BIFF
SOCK!
BAM!
LATER...
HOW'D THEY MANAGE TO PULL THE MUSEUM JOB, ATOM?
RIDLEY SLUGGED A GUARD AND USED HIS UNIFORM TO ACT AS A LOOKOUT DURING THE THEFT. AFTER THEY TRAPPED ME, RIDLEY SNEAKED THEM OUT OF THE MUSEUM WITH THE LOOT!
WHAT MADE YOU TRAIL THEM HERE?
ONE OF THE GANG DROPPED THIS BRASS RING! IT COMES FROM A MERRY-GO-ROUND! THAT PLUS THE ACROBATIC CROOKS SPELLED "CARNIVAL" TO ME--AND JAIL TO THEM!
6
END

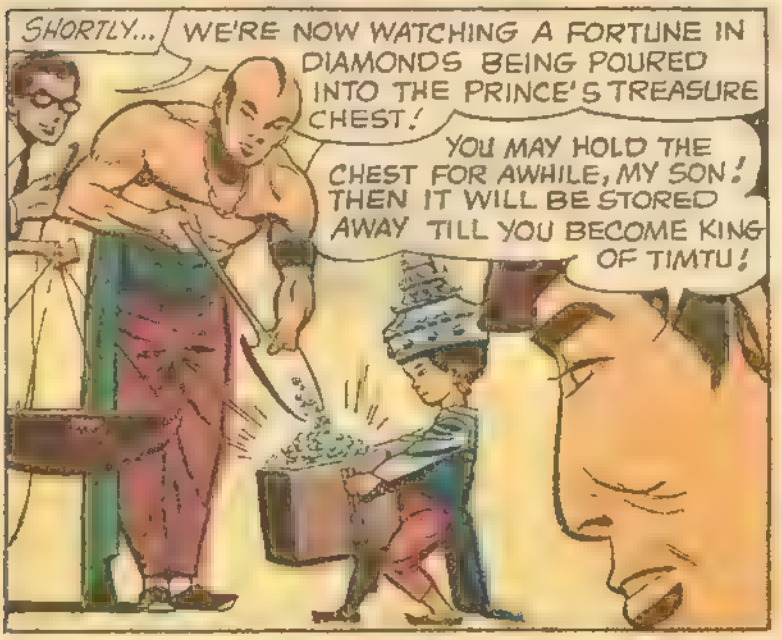

AQUAMAN
SIGH! MY SEA CREATURE FRIENDS ARE TELLING ME THEY BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH FISH-TELEPATHY! BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE FAITH IN ME! THE REST OF THE WORLD THINKS I'M A THIEF... AND I CAN'T PROVE I'M NOT!
ONE DAY, AQUAMAN MAKES A SALVAGE DIVE, LITTLE SUSPECTING THAT BY DOING SOMEBODY A GOOD TURN, HE WILL RUIN HIS GOOD NAME! FOR WHILE THE RULER OF THE OCEANS CAN RECOVER ANY SUNKEN OBJECT, HE DISCOVERS IT IS FAR HARDER TO RECOVER SOMETHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN TREASURE... HIS LOST REPUTATION! CAN AQUAMAN DO ANYTHING TO MAKE A SUSPICIOUS WORLD STOP CALLING HIM... THE AQUA-THIEF of the SEVEN SEAS!
I BELIEVE YOU, AQUAMAN!
YOU'RE NOT A CRIMINAL!
WE KNOW YOU'RE INNOCENT!
N-429
ART: RAMONA FRADON
FROM: ADVENTURE #276 (SEPT., 1960).

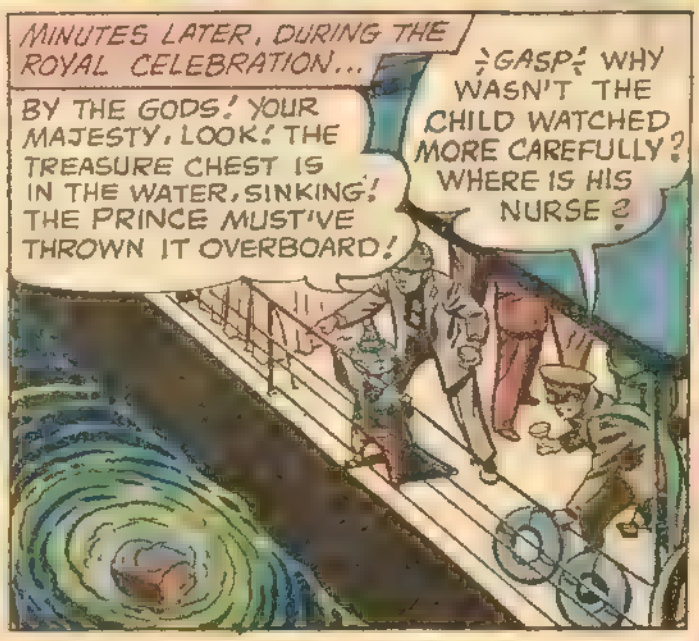

ONE DAY, KING TAI, RULER OF TIMTU, CELEBRATES THE SECOND BIRTHDAY OF HIS YOUNG SON...
YOUR SON'S BIRTHDAY IS BEING TELEVISED TO THE WHOLE WORLD, KING TAI!
I AM HONORED THAT THE WORLD WILL WITNESS THE RITUAL OF THE JEWELS ABOARD MY YACHT!

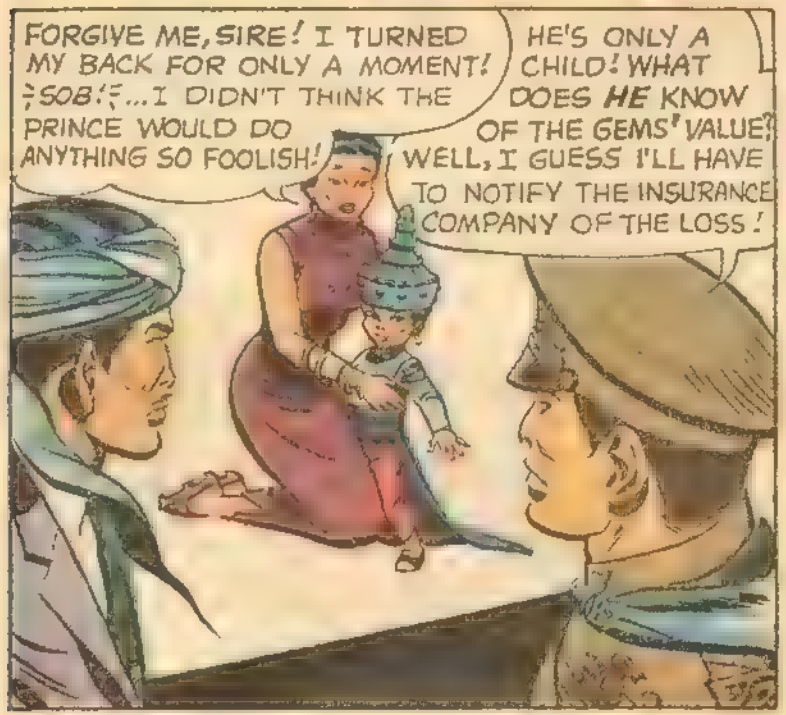

PRESENTLY, ABOARD THE KING'S LAUNCH...
TELL OUR TV AUDIENCE, MR. PRIME MINISTER, WHAT IS THE CEREMONY OF THE JEWELS?
ACCORDING TO ANCIENT CUSTOM, THE PRINCE, ON HIS BIRTHDAY, IS WEIGHED ON THE ROYAL SCALES!


THEN HE IS GIVEN, AS A GIFT FROM HIS FATHER, HIS WEIGHT IN GEMS! LAST YEAR, THE CHILD RECEIVED PEARLS! THIS YEAR, IT WILL BE DIAMONDS! NEXT YEAR... RUBIES!
WHEW! THAT KID IS REALLY WORTH HIS WEIGHT IN GOLD--I MEAN... ER... DIAMONDS!

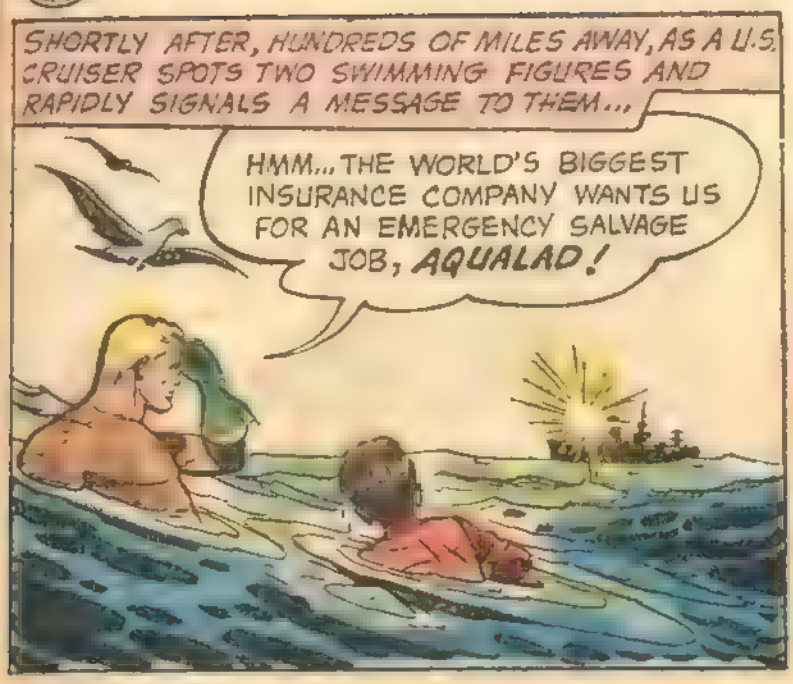

LATER, AT THE WEIGHING-IN CEREMONY...
LOOK, FOLKS! THE SCALE PANS ARE NOW EVEN, THE LITTLE PRINCE OF TIMTU ISLAND COLLECTS 26 POUNDS OF DIAMONDS FROM THE KING'S TREASURE!

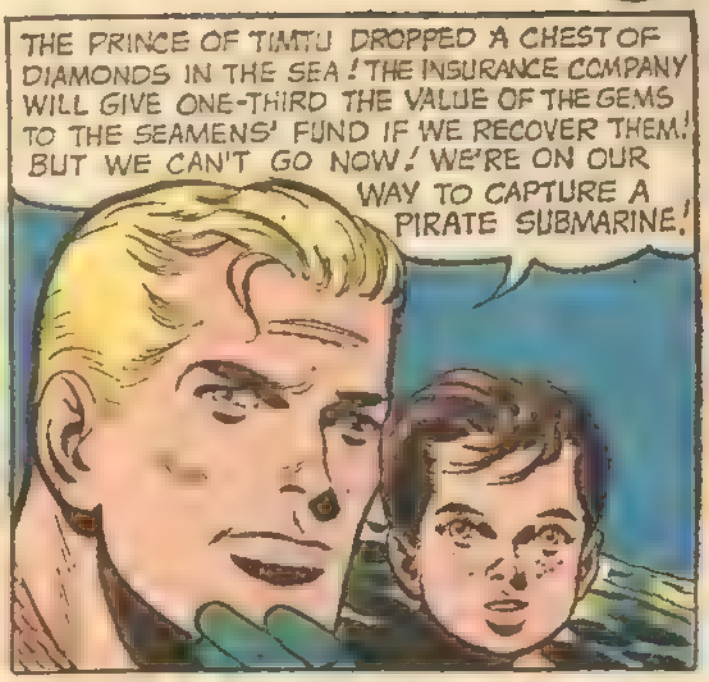

SHORTLY... WE'RE NOW WATCHING A FORTUNE IN DIAMONDS BEING POURED INTO THE PRINCE'S TREASURE CHEST!
YOU MAY HOLD THE CHEST FOR AWHILE, MY SON! THEN IT WILL BE STORED AWAY TILL YOU BECOME KING OF TIMTU!

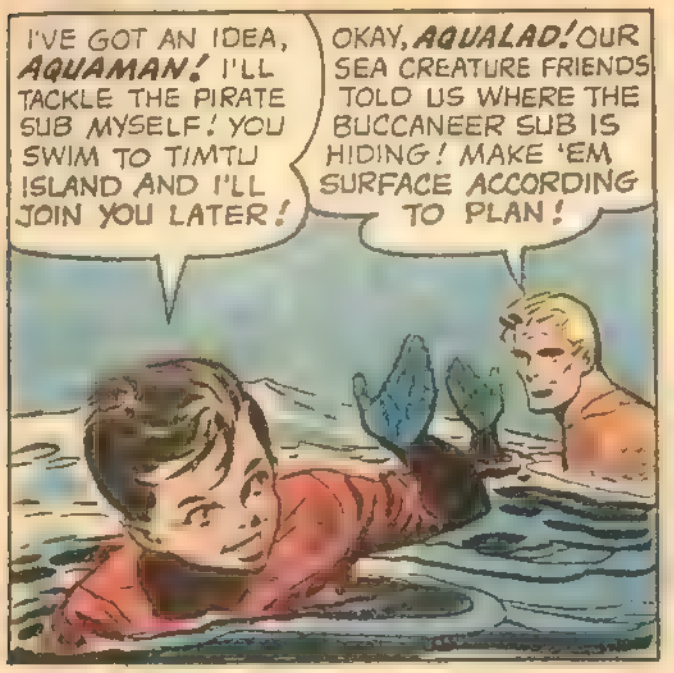

MINUTES LATER, DURING THE ROYAL CELEBRATION...
BY THE GODS! YOUR MAJESTY, LOOK! THE TREASURE CHEST IS IN THE WATER, SINKING! THE PRINCE MUST'VE THROWN IT OVERBOARD!
;GASP; WHY WASN'T THE CHILD WATCHED MORE CAREFULLY? WHERE IS HIS NURSE?

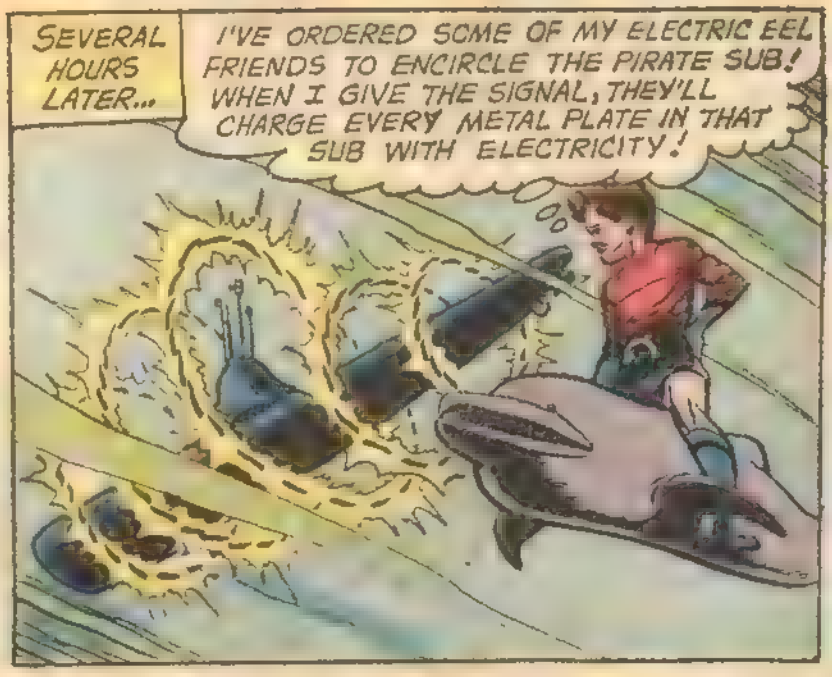

FORGIVE ME, SIRE! I TURNED MY BACK FOR ONLY A MOMENT! ;SOB;... I DIDN'T THINK THE PRINCE WOULD DO ANYTHING SO FOOLISH!
HE'S ONLY A CHILD! WHAT DOES HE KNOW OF THE GEMS' VALUE? WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO NOTIFY THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE LOSS!

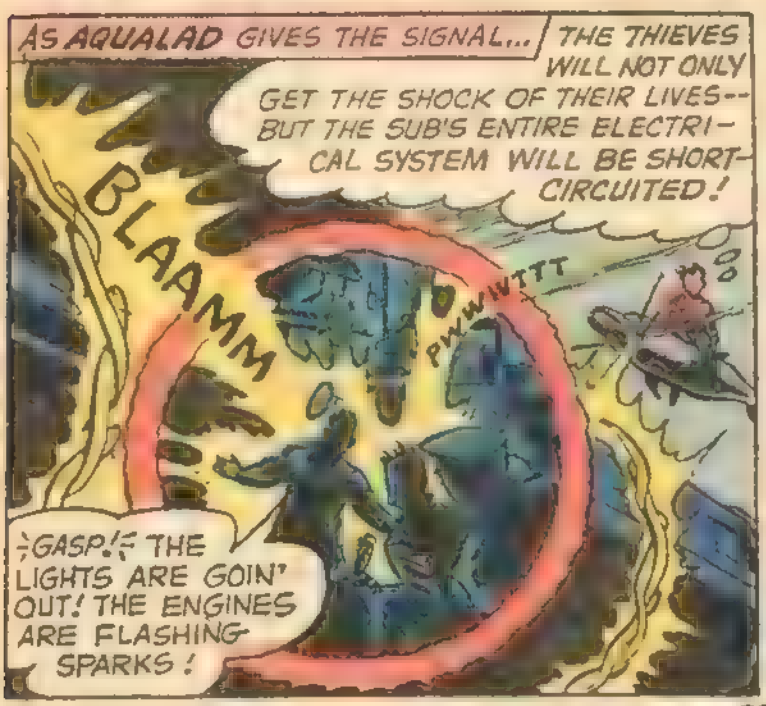
STOP WHIMPERING AND TAKE THE CHILD BACK TO THE PALACE! VUDA! RADIO THE INSURANCE COMPANY AND TELL THEM WE'RE STANDING BY! I SUGGEST THEY CONTACT AQUAMAN!
YES, SIRE!

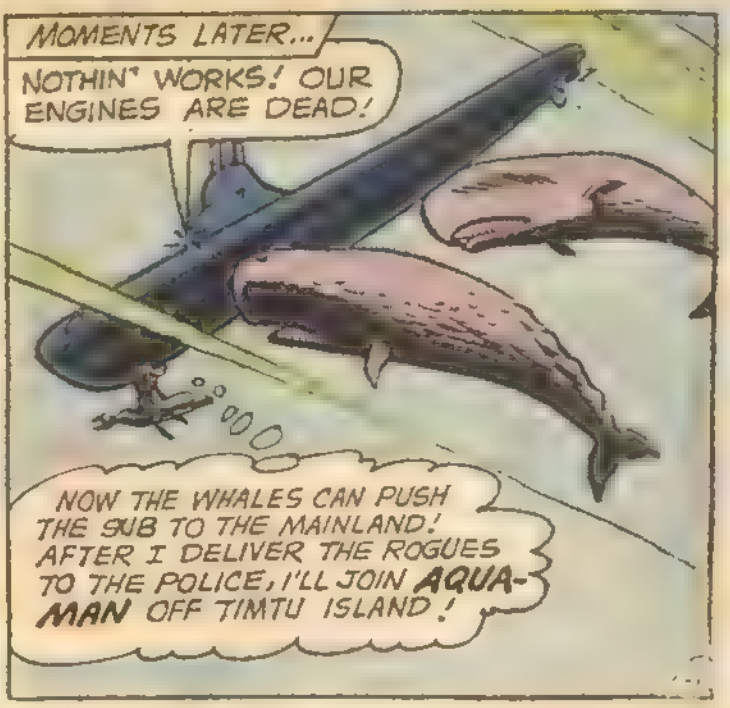

SHORTLY AFTER, HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, AS A U.S. CRUISER SPOTS TWO SWIMMING FIGURES AND RAPIDLY SIGNALS A MESSAGE TO THEM...
HMM... THE WORLD'S BIGGEST INSURANCE COMPANY WANTS US FOR AN EMERGENCY SALVAGE JOB, AQUALAD!

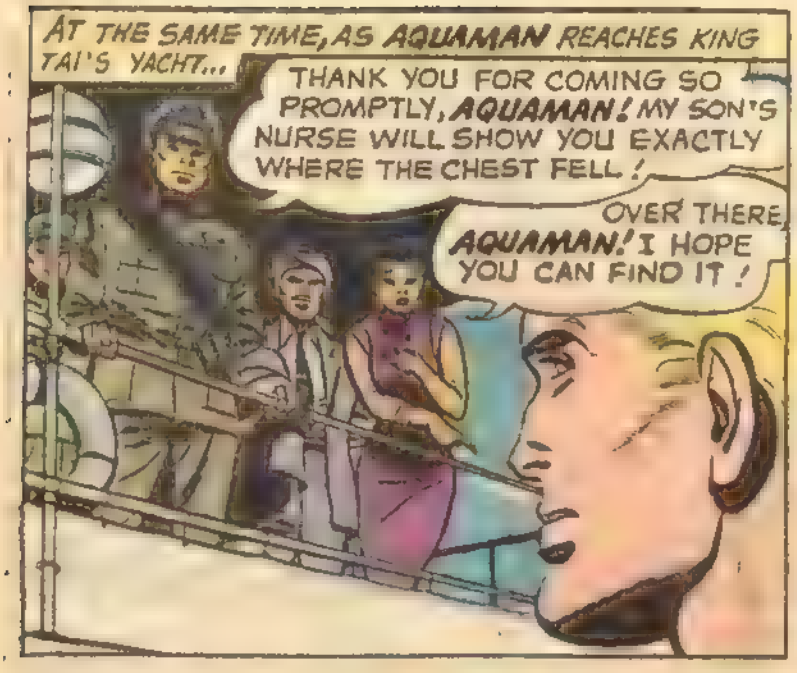

THE PRINCE OF TIMTU DROPPED A CHEST OF DIAMONDS IN THE SEA! THE INSURANCE COMPANY WILL GIVE ONE-THIRD THE VALUE OF THE GEMS TO THE SEAMENS' FUND IF WE RECOVER THEM! BUT WE CAN'T GO NOW! WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO CAPTURE A PIRATE SUBMARINE!

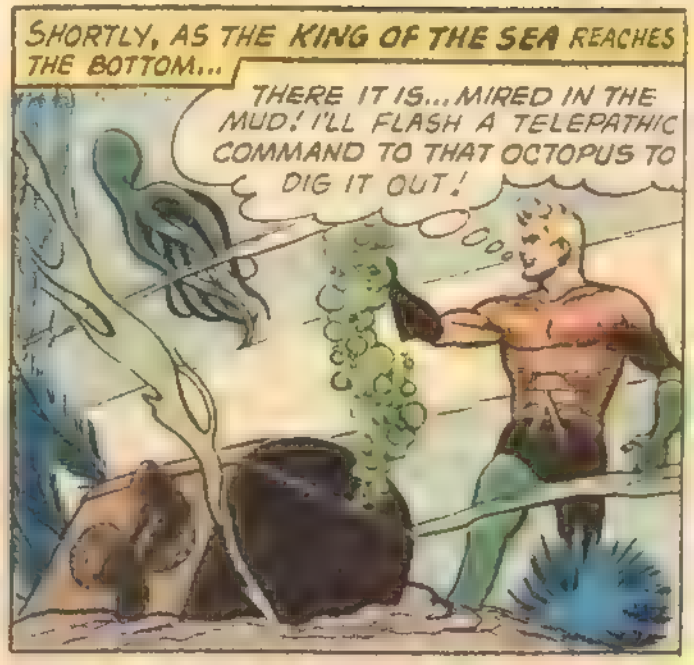

I'VE GOT AN IDEA, AQUAMAN! I'LL TACKLE THE PIRATE SUB MYSELF! YOU SWIM TO TIMTU ISLAND AND I'LL JOIN YOU LATER!
OKAY, AQUALAD! OUR SEA CREATURE FRIENDS TOLD US WHERE THE BUCCANEER SUB IS HIDING! MAKE 'EM SURFACE ACCORDING TO PLAN!

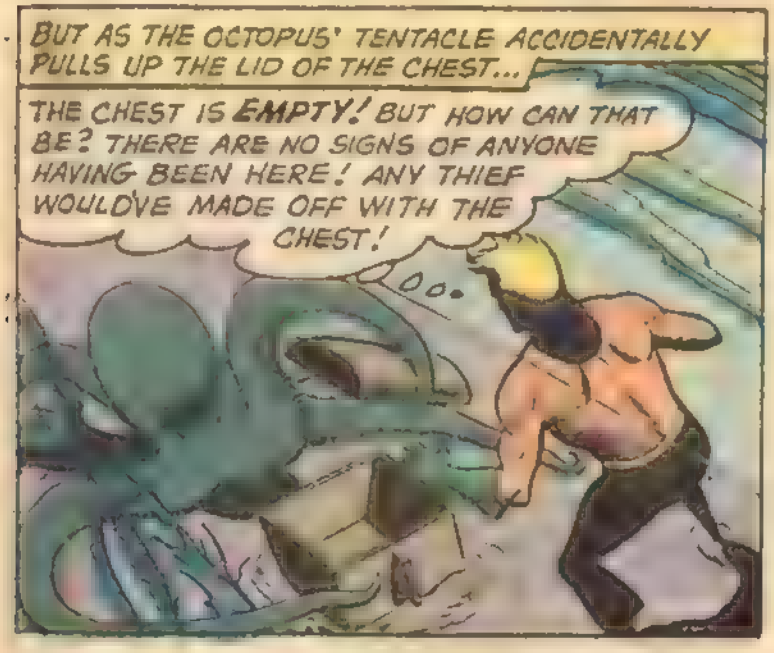

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
I'VE ORDERED SOME OF MY ELECTRIC EEL FRIENDS TO ENCIRCLE THE PIRATE SUB! WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, THEY'LL CHARGE EVERY METAL PLATE IN THAT SUB WITH ELECTRICITY!

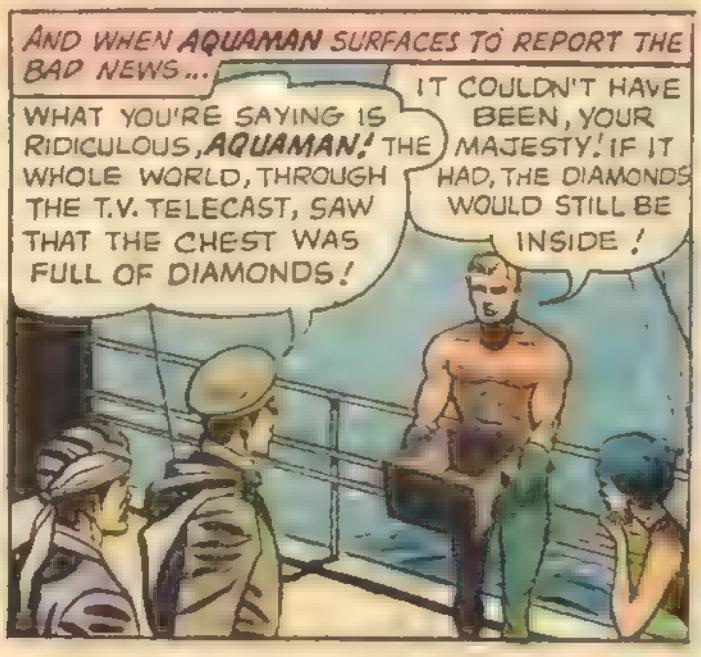

AS AQUALAD GIVES THE SIGNAL...
THE THIEVES WILL NOT ONLY GET THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES-- BUT THE SUB'S ENTIRE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM WILL BE SHORT-CIRCUITED!
BLAAMM
PWWIVTTT
;GASP!; THE LIGHTS ARE GOIN' OUT! THE ENGINES ARE FLASHING SPARKS!

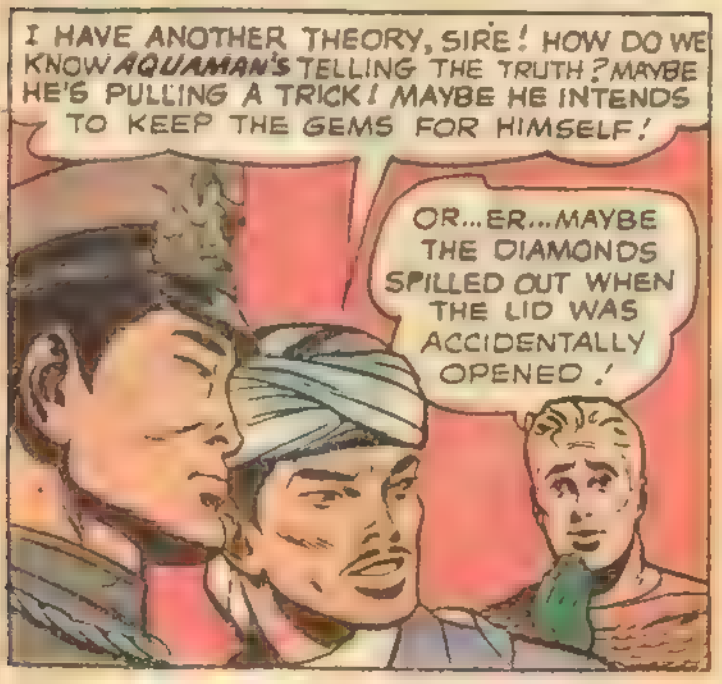

MOMENTS LATER...
NOTHIN' WORKS! OUR ENGINES ARE DEAD!
NOW THE WHALES CAN PUSH THE SUB TO THE MAINLAND! AFTER I DELIVER THE ROGUES TO THE POLICE, I'LL JOIN AQUAMAN OFF TIMTU ISLAND!

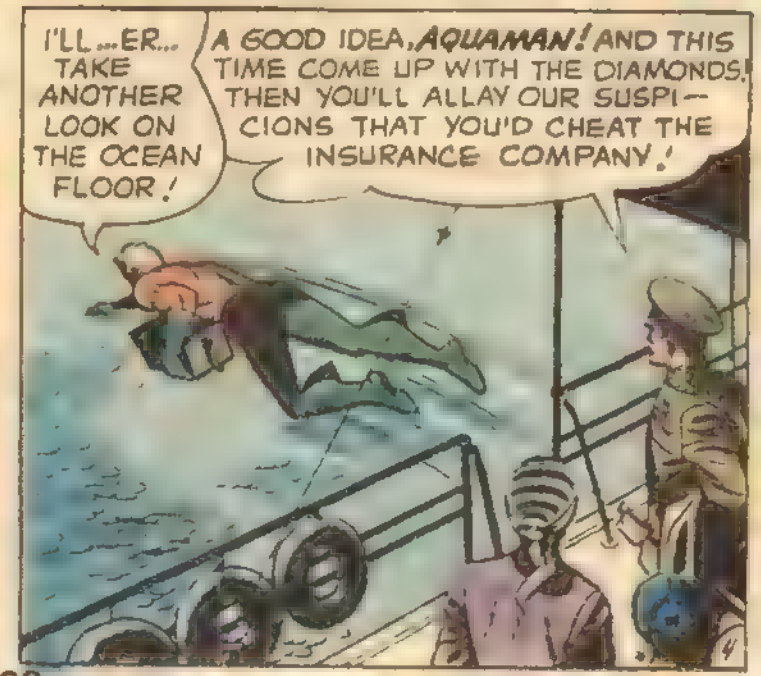

AT THE SAME TIME, AS AQUAMAN REACHES KING TAI'S YACHT...
THANK YOU FOR COMING SO PROMPTLY, AQUAMAN! MY SON'S NURSE WILL SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHERE THE CHEST FELL!
OVER THERE, AQUAMAN! I HOPE YOU CAN FIND IT!


SHORTLY, AS THE KING OF THE SEA REACHES THE BOTTOM...
THERE IT IS... MIRED IN THE MUD! I'LL FLASH A TELEPATHIC COMMAND TO THAT OCTOPUS TO DIG IT OUT!

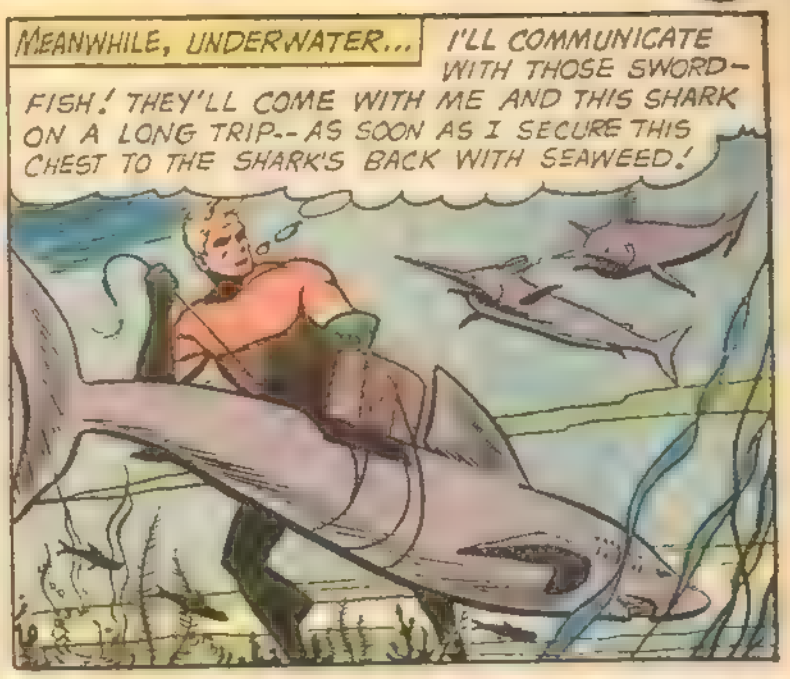

BUT AS THE OCTOPUS' TENTACLE ACCIDENTALLY PULLS UP THE LID OF THE CHEST...
THE CHEST IS EMPTY! BUT HOW CAN THAT BE? THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ANYONE HAVING BEEN HERE! ANY THIEF WOULD'VE MADE OFF WITH THE CHEST!

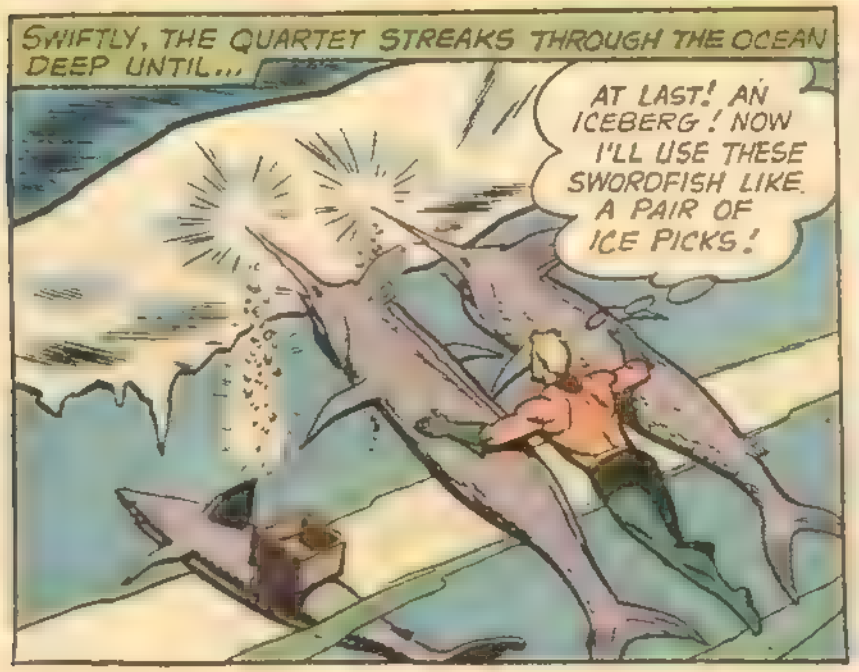

AND WHEN AQUAMAN SURFACES TO REPORT THE BAD NEWS...
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS RIDICULOUS, AQUAMAN! THE WHOLE WORLD, THROUGH THE T.V. TELECAST, SAW THAT THE CHEST WAS FULL OF DIAMONDS!
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN, YOUR MAJESTY! IF IT HAD, THE DIAMONDS WOULD STILL BE INSIDE!

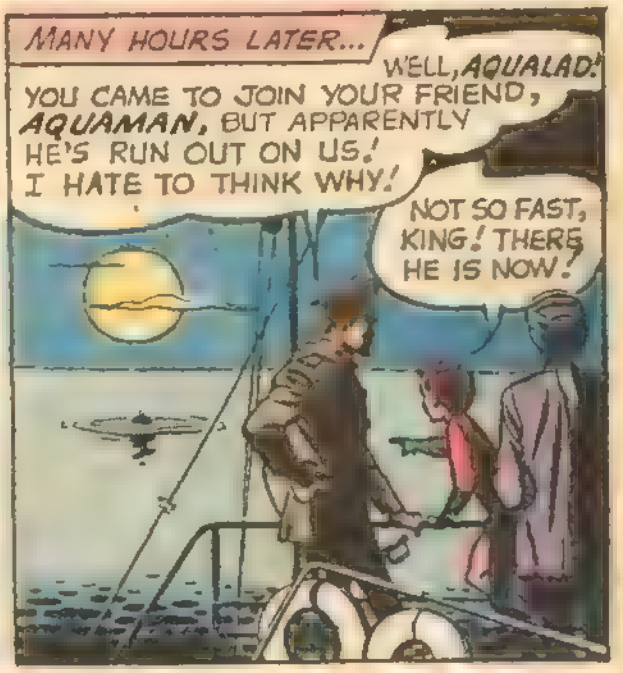

I HAVE ANOTHER THEORY, SIRE! HOW DO WE KNOW AQUAMAN'S TELLING THE TRUTH? MAYBE HE'S PULLING A TRICK! MAYBE HE INTENDS TO KEEP THE GEMS FOR HIMSELF!
OR... ER... MAYBE THE DIAMONDS SPILLED OUT WHEN THE LID WAS ACCIDENTALLY OPENED!

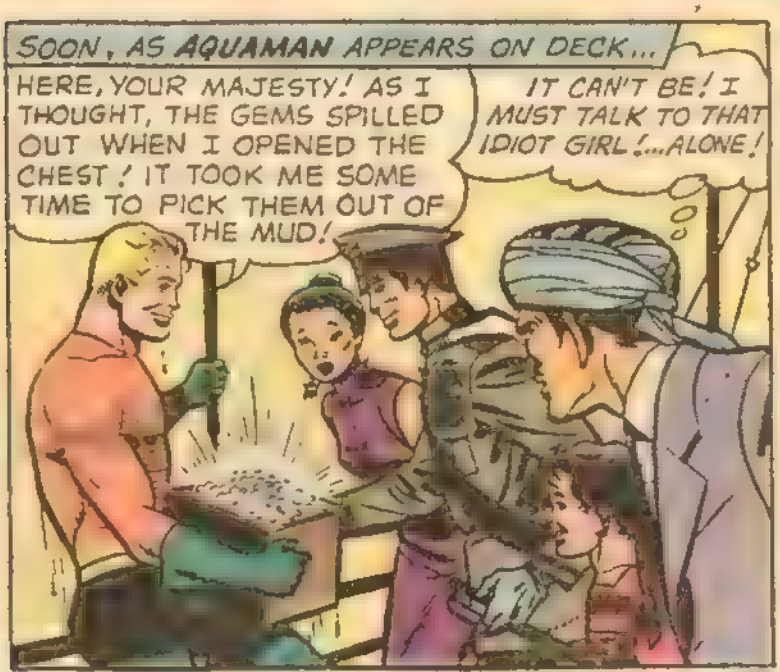

I'LL... ER... TAKE ANOTHER LOOK ON THE OCEAN FLOOR!
A GOOD IDEA, AQUAMAN! AND THIS TIME COME UP WITH THE DIAMONDS! THEN YOU'LL ALLAY OUR SUSPI— CIONS THAT YOU'D CHEAT THE INSURANCE COMPANY!

UH...I DON'T THINK HE'LL FIND ANY DIAMONDS BELOW, EH, MY DEAR ?
NO, VUDA ! OUR SCHEME IS WORKING OUT PERFECTLY !

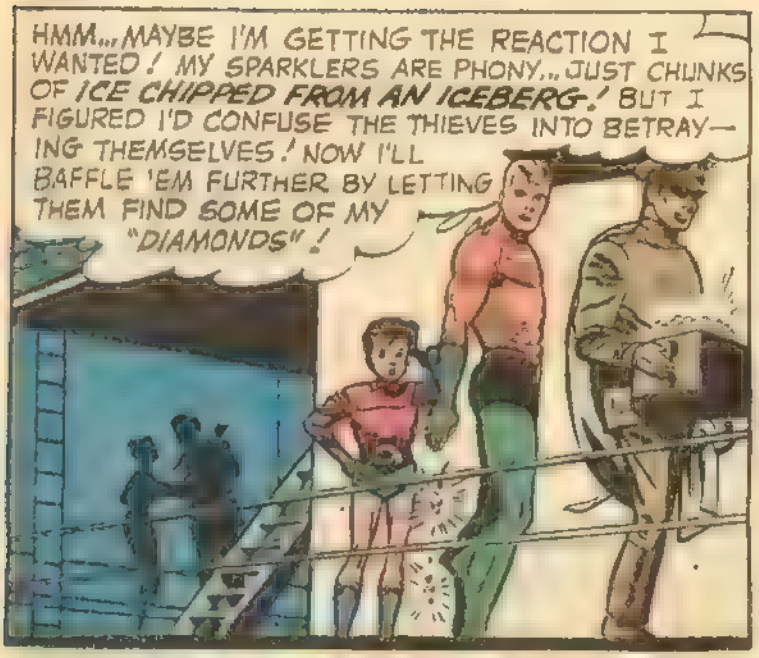

MEANWHILE, UNDERWATER...
I'LL COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE SWORD-FISH ! THEY'LL COME WITH ME AND THIS SHARK ON A LONG TRIP--AS SOON AS I SECURE THIS CHEST TO THE SHARK'S BACK WITH SEAWEED !

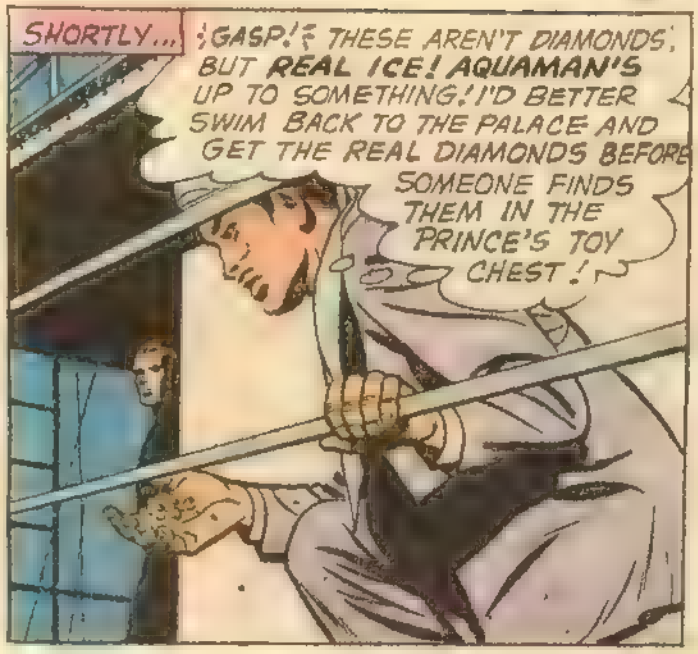

SWIFTLY, THE QUARTET STREAKS THROUGH THE OCEAN DEEP UNTIL...
AT LAST ! AN ICEBERG ! NOW I'LL USE THESE SWORDFISH LIKE A PAIR OF ICE PICKS !

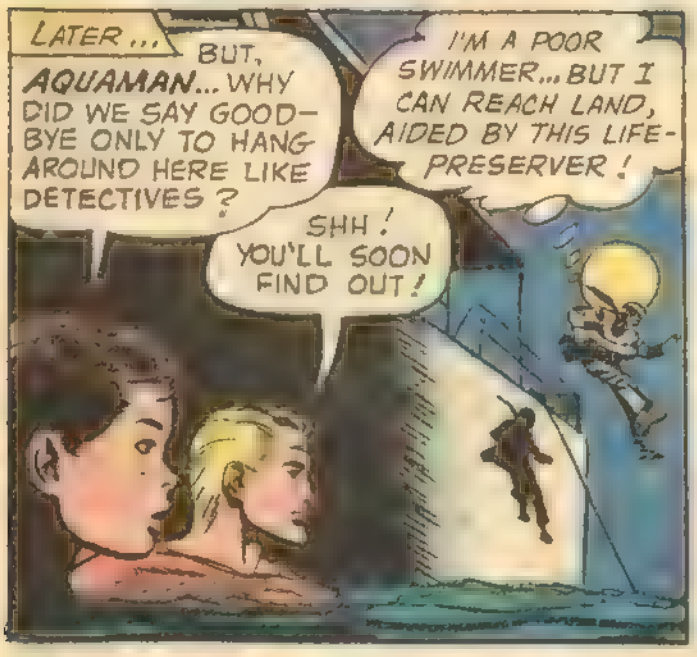

MANY HOURS LATER...
WELL, AQUALAD ! YOU CAME TO JOIN YOUR FRIEND, AQUAMAN, BUT APPARENTLY HE'S RUN OUT ON US ! I HATE TO THINK WHY !
NOT SO FAST, KING ! THERE HE IS NOW !

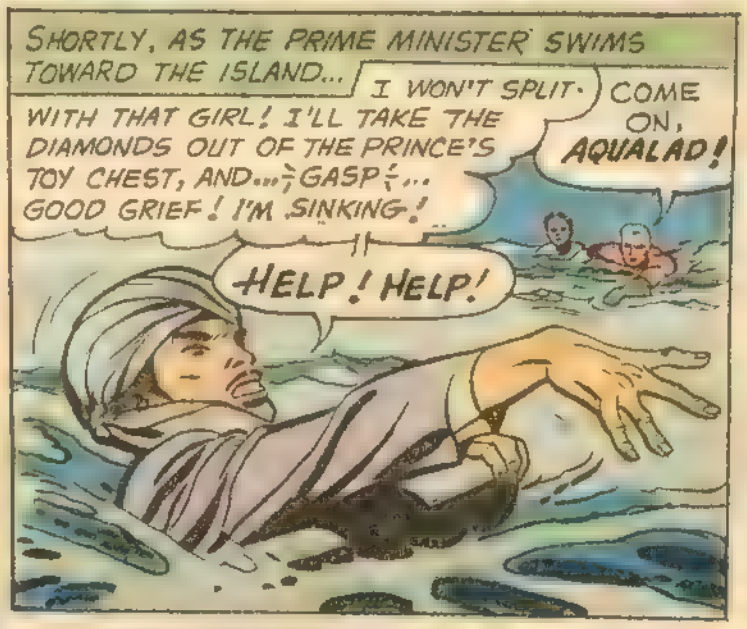

SOON, AS AQUAMAN APPEARS ON DECK...
HERE, YOUR MAJESTY ! AS I THOUGHT, THE GEMS SPILLED OUT WHEN I OPENED THE CHEST ! IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO PICK THEM OUT OF THE MUD !
IT CAN'T BE ! I MUST TALK TO THAT IDIOT GIRL !...ALONE !

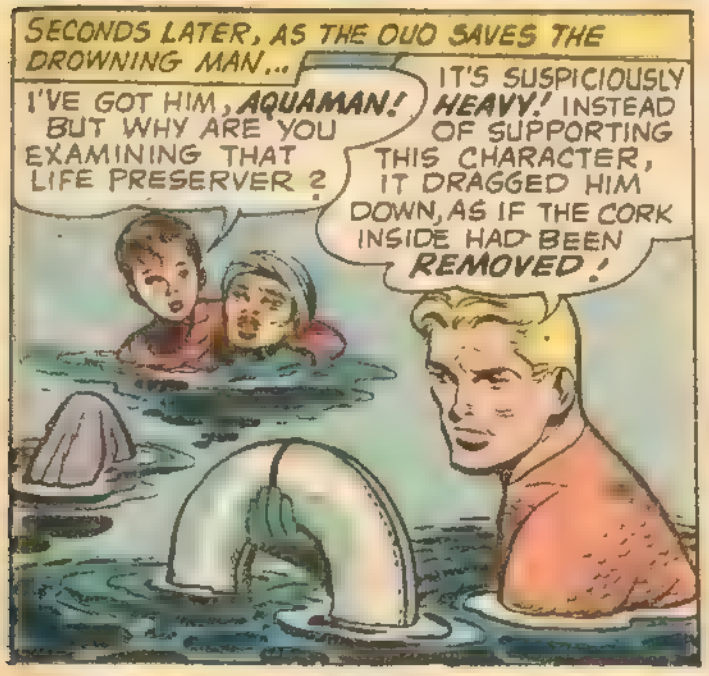
AS THE PRIME MINISTER TAKES THE NURSE ASIDE...
FOOL ! I THOUGHT YOU REMOVED THE DIAMONDS FROM THE CHEST, THEN THREW THE CHEST OVERBOARD, BLAMING THE ACCI-DENT ON THE CHILD !
I DID, VUDA ! WHEN I RETURNED TO THE PALACE, I HID THE GEMS IN THE PRINCE'S TOY CHEST !
5

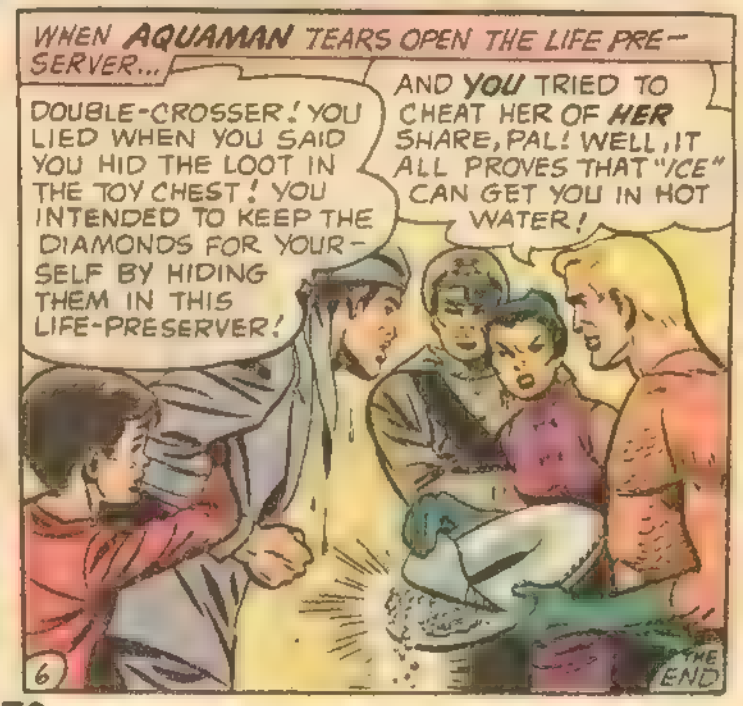

HMM... MAYBE I'M GETTING THE REACTION I WANTED! MY SPARKLERS ARE PHONY... JUST CHUNKS OF ICE CHIPPED FROM AN ICEBERG! BUT I FIGURED I'D CONFUSE THE THIEVES INTO BETRAYING THEMSELVES! NOW I'LL BAFFLE 'EM FURTHER BY LETTING THEM FIND SOME OF MY "DIAMONDS"!


SHORTLY...
;GASP!; THESE AREN'T DIAMONDS, BUT REAL ICE! AQUAMAN'S UP TO SOMETHING! I'D BETTER SWIM BACK TO THE PALACE AND GET THE REAL DIAMONDS BEFORE SOMEONE FINDS THEM IN THE PRINCE'S TOY CHEST!


LATER...
BUT, AQUAMAN... WHY DID WE SAY GOOD-BYE ONLY TO HANG AROUND HERE LIKE DETECTIVES?
I'M A POOR SWIMMER... BUT I CAN REACH LAND, AIDED BY THIS LIFE-PRESERVER!
SHH! YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT!


SHORTLY, AS THE PRIME MINISTER SWIMS TOWARD THE ISLAND...
I WON'T SPLIT WITH THAT GIRL! I'LL TAKE THE DIAMONDS OUT OF THE PRINCE'S TOY CHEST, AND... ;GASP;... GOOD GRIEF! I'M SINKING!
COME ON, AQUALAD!
HELP! HELP!


SECONDS LATER, AS THE DUO SAVES THE DROWNING MAN...
I'VE GOT HIM, AQUAMAN! BUT WHY ARE YOU EXAMINING THAT LIFE PRESERVER?
IT'S SUSPICIOUSLY HEAVY! INSTEAD OF SUPPORTING THIS CHARACTER, IT DRAGGED HIM DOWN, AS IF THE CORK INSIDE HAD BEEN REMOVED!


WHEN AQUAMAN TEARS OPEN THE LIFE PRESERVER...
DOUBLE-CROSSER! YOU LIED WHEN YOU SAID YOU HID THE LOOT IN THE TOY CHEST! YOU INTENDED TO KEEP THE DIAMONDS FOR YOURSELF BY HIDING THEM IN THIS LIFE-PRESERVER!
AND YOU TRIED TO CHEAT HER OF HER SHARE, PAL! WELL, IT ALL PROVES THAT "ICE" CAN GET YOU IN HOT WATER!
6
THE END

TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

MIGHTY ARE THE POWERS OF THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**, BUT AT LAST THEY MEET THEIR MATCH! OUT OF DISTANT SPACE COME FIVE SUPER-POWERED YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A STRANGE HISTORY, AND WHEN FATE PITS THEM AGAINST THE LEGIONNAIRES, THE SUPER-HEROES MEET **DEFEAT** IN THEIR BATTLE WITH

The LEGION of SUPER-OUTLAWS!

PART I

THESE SUPER-OUTLAWS... WE CAN'T STOP THEM! THEY'RE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR **SUPERBOY!**

FROM: **ADVENTURE** #324 (SEPT., 1964).

ART BY: JOHN FORTE

IN THE 30TH CENTURY, **ALMOST** EVERYONE ON EARTH ADMIRES **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**...

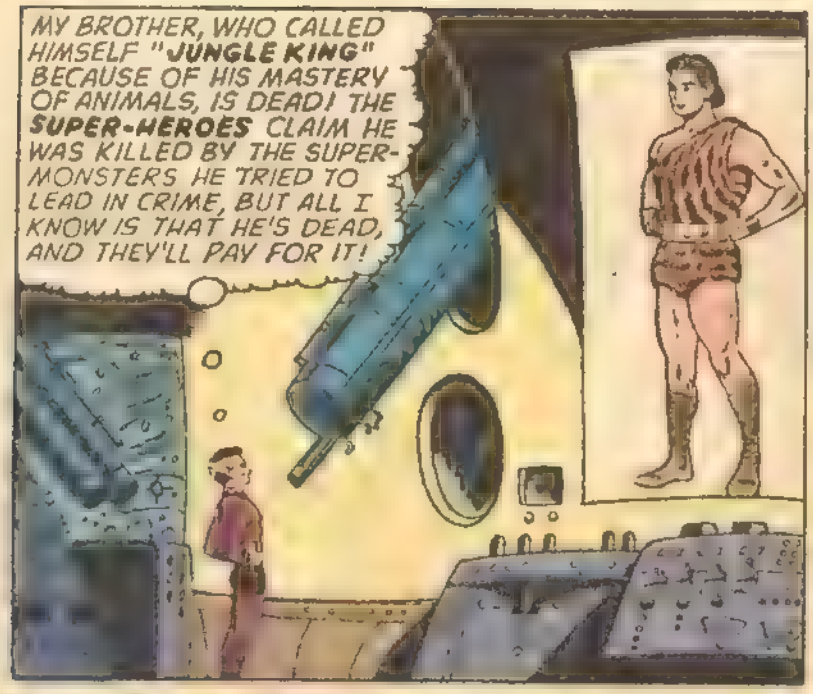
LOOK, THERE GO THE **SUPER-HEROES** INTO THEIR CLUBHOUSE! HURRAH FOR OUR GREAT CHAMPIONS!

SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE

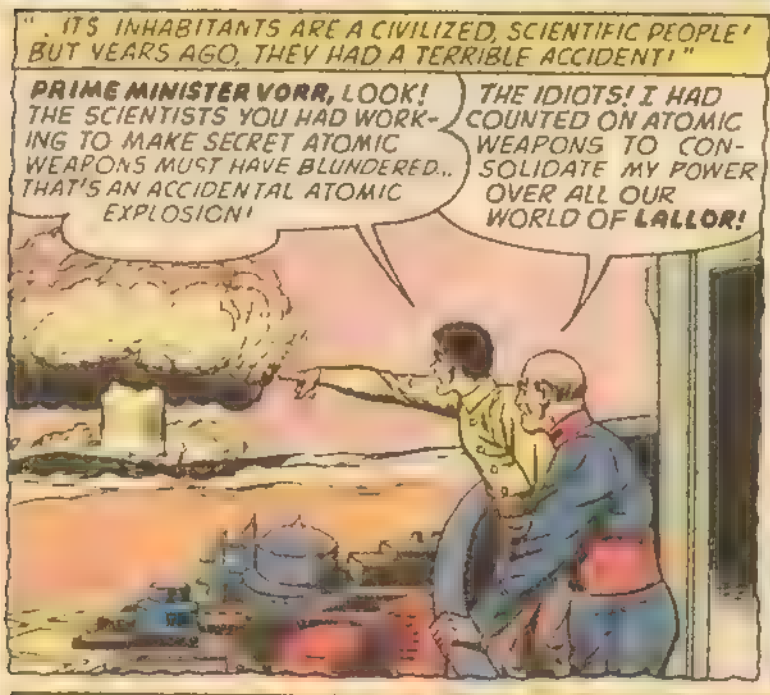
THOSE CHEERING FOOLS DON'T DREAM THAT SOON I'LL **DESTROY** THEIR PRECIOUS **LEGION!**

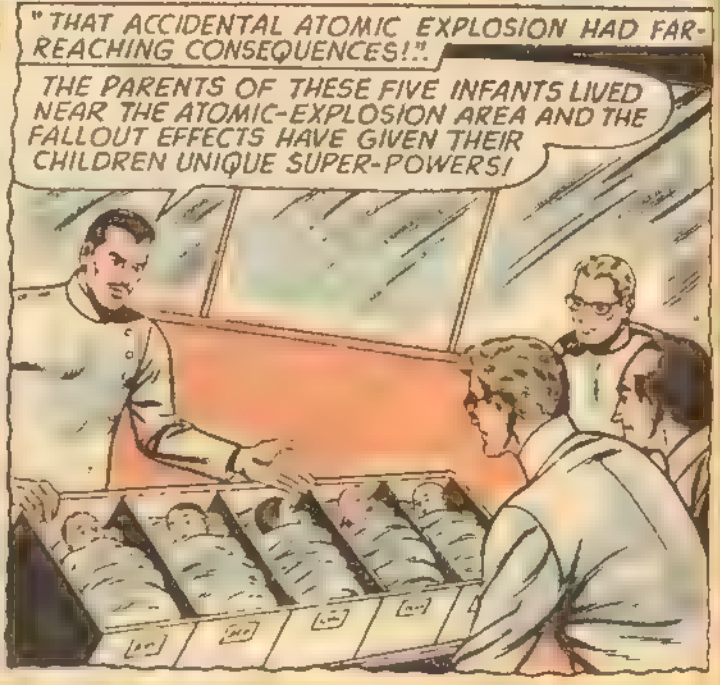
DR. MARDEN KING, BRILLIANT BUT WARPED SCIENTIST, RETURNS TO HIS ISOLATED OBSERVATORY, BRIMMING OVER WITH HATRED!

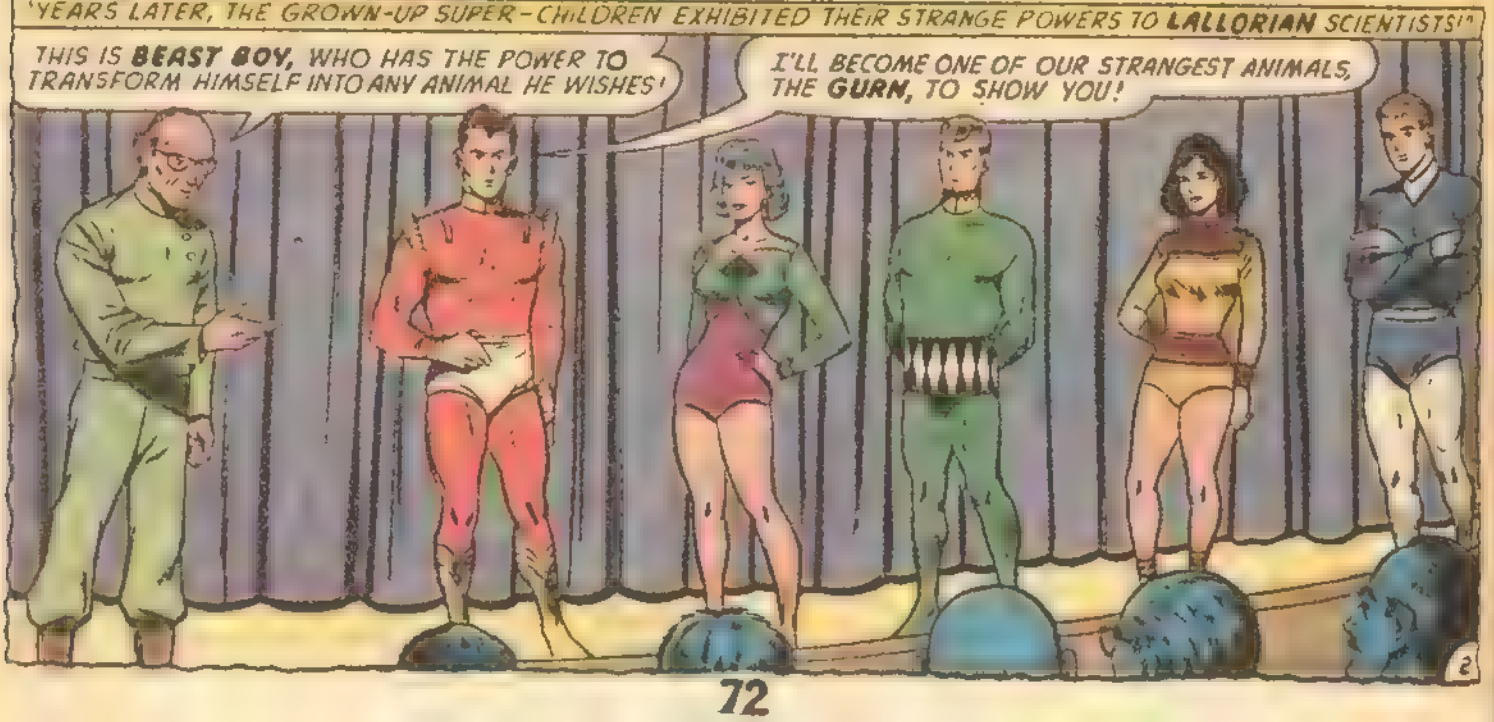
THOUGH THE **LEGION** DOESN'T KNOW IT, I HAVE A **BLOOD-FEUD** WITH THEM!


MY BROTHER, WHO CALLED HIMSELF "JUNGLE KING" BECAUSE OF HIS MASTERY OF ANIMALS, IS DEAD! THE SUPER-HEROES CLAIM HE WAS KILLED BY THE SUPER-MONSTERS HE TRIED TO LEAD IN CRIME, BUT ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE'S DEAD, AND THEY'LL PAY FOR IT!

AH! THERE'S THE DISTANT PLANET LALLOR, FROM WHICH WILL COME THE INSTRUMENTS I'LL USE TO DESTROY THE LEGION! I'VE WATCHED THIS WORLD, FOR YEARS...


"...ITS INHABITANTS ARE A CIVILIZED, SCIENTIFIC PEOPLE! BUT YEARS AGO, THEY HAD A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT!"
PRIME MINISTER VORR, LOOK! THE SCIENTISTS YOU HAD WORKING TO MAKE SECRET ATOMIC WEAPONS MUST HAVE BLUNDERED.. THAT'S AN ACCIDENTAL ATOMIC EXPLOSION!
THE IDIOTS! I HAD COUNTED ON ATOMIC WEAPONS TO CONSOLIDATE MY POWER OVER ALL OUR WORLD OF LALLOR!


"THAT ACCIDENTAL ATOMIC EXPLOSION HAD FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES!".
THE PARENTS OF THESE FIVE INFANTS LIVED NEAR THE ATOMIC-EXPLOSION AREA AND THE FALLOUT EFFECTS HAVE GIVEN THEIR CHILDREN UNIQUE SUPER-POWERS!


"YEARS LATER, THE GROWN-UP SUPER-CHILDREN EXHIBITED THEIR STRANGE POWERS TO LALLORIAN SCIENTISTS!"
THIS IS BEAST BOY, WHO HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO ANY ANIMAL HE WISHES!
I'LL BECOME ONE OF OUR STRANGEST ANIMALS, THE GURN, TO SHOW YOU!

YOU HAVE WITNESSED BEAST BOY'S POWER! NOW HERE IS GAS GIRL, WHO CAN CHANGE HERSELF INTO ANY KIND OF GAS SHE WISHES!
AS VAPOR, GAS GIRL CAN GO ANYWHERE GAS CAN GO! NOW HERE IS EVOLVO LAD WHO HAS THE POWER OF GOING BACKWARD OR FORWARD IN EVOLUTION!
I'LL GO A LITTLE BACKWARD, TO DEMONSTRATE! I'LL BECOME AN APE!
AND THIS IS LIFE LASS, WHO CAN TRANSFORM ANY INANIMATE OBJECT INTO A LIVING THING, BY WILLING IT!
I'LL USE MY POWER ON THIS TABLE!
SEE?.. IT'S ALIVE! I'LL NOW RETURN THE LIVING TABLE TO ITS ORIGINAL INANIMATE STATE!
AND FINALLY, THIS IS DUPLICATE BOY, WHOSE POWER IS THE MOST UNUSUAL OF ALL... HE CAN DUPLICATE EXACTLY THE SUPER-POWER OF ANYONE ELSE! SHOW THEM, DUPLICATE BOY!
YOU SEE HOW HE CAN DUPLICATE ANY POWER OF THE OTHERS? THESE FIVE YOUNGSTERS CAN DO WONDERFUL THINGS FOR OUR WORLD, LALLOR!
3

"BUT **PRIME MINISTER VORR** HAD WATCHED WITH MISGIVINGS!"

THESE YOUNGSTERS, WITH THEIR UNIQUE POWERS, COULD UPSET MY REIGN AS DICTATOR OF **LALLOR**! THEY MUST BE BANISHED FROM OUR WORLD FOREVER!

I UNDERSTAND, PRIME MINISTER! I'LL HAVE THEM AT THE SPACEPORT TONIGHT!

"THAT NIGHT, THE FIVE SUPER-YOUTHS RECEIVED AN ULTIMATUM!"

EITHER YOU LEAVE **LALLOR** IN THAT EXPERIMENTAL HIGH-SPEED STAR-SHIP.. OR YOUR FAMILIES WILL GO TO PRISON FOR LIFE!

WE...WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! WE'LL LEAVE, PRIME MINISTER!

EVER SINCE THEY LEFT **LALLOR**, THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A WORLD TO LIVE ON! NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO CONTACT THEM BY MY DIMENSIONAL-STEREO!

IN THEIR ROCKET SHIP, THE FIVE SUPER-YOUTHS GET A SURPRISE!

I'M SPEAKING TO YOU BY DIMENSIONAL-STEREO... I LEARNED YOUR LANGUAGE BY MONITORING YOUR WORLD, AND I CAN TEACH YOU MINE! I OFFER YOU FIVE YOUTHS A HOME ON EARTH.

A HOME AGAIN, ON A WORLD WITH HUMAN PEOPLE! WE ACCEPT... WE'LL COME TO YOUR PLANET!

LATER, ARRIVING ON EARTH..

YOU SEE, WE'VE MASTERED **YOUR** LANGUAGE COMPLETELY BY STUDYING EN ROUTE! IT'LL BE WONDERFUL, LIVING HERE ON EARTH PEACEFULLY!

AS FAR AS I AND MOST EARTH PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, YOU'RE WELCOME!

BUT WE HAVE A TYRANNICAL GROUP HERE CALLED THE **SUPER-HEROES**, WHO ARE JEALOUS OF ANY RIVALS, AND WHO MAY ORDER YOU TO LEAVE! YOU MAY NEED TO USE YOUR SUPER-POWERS TO RESIST THEM!

WE'LL FIGHT, IF WE HAVE TO... WE'RE TIRED OF WANDERING IN SPACE HOMELESSLY!

SOON AFTERWARD, UNKNOWN TO HIS NEW GUESTS.

DR MARDEN KING, CALLING THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES** FOR **HELP!** RUTHLESS, SUPER-POWERED OUTLAWS HAVE LANDED HERE, WHO PLAN TO CONQUER EARTH!

HA! THAT'LL BRING THE LEGIONNAIRES HERE... AND I'VE DECEIVED MY YOUNG **SUPER-OUTLAWS** SO THEY'LL FIGHT AND **DESTROY** THE **SUPER-HEROES!**

THE CALL FOR "HELP" COMES AT AN AWKWARD TIME FOR THE SUPER-HEROES!

WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THOSE SUPER-OUTLAWS, **INVISIBLE KID** BUT THE WHOLE LEGION IS AWAY ON MISSIONS EXCEPT YOU AND ME AND **SHRINKING VIOLET!**

DON'T WORRY! I JUST HEARD THAT **SUPERBOY** IS ARRIVING ON ONE OF HIS REGULAR VISITS! WITH HIM ON OUR SIDE, WE CAN DEAL WITH ANYTHING!

PRESENTLY, FOUR **LEGIONNAIRES**, THREE OF THEM TRANSPORTED BY FLYING BELTS,* ROCKET TO ANSWER THE "DISTRESS CALL"!

THIS MAY BE VERY DANGEROUS, **VIOLET!** YOUR POWER OF SHRINKING TO TINY SIZE, AND **STAR-BOY'S** POWER OF MAKING THINGS SUPER-HEAVY, AND **INVISIBLE KID'S** INVISIBILITY-POWER ARE NOT MUCH GOOD IN A FIGHT!

WE WON'T LET YOU BATTLE THOSE SUPER-OUTLAWS ALONE!

*BRAINIAC 5 INVENTED THE FLIGHT-RINGS LATER.

MEANWHILE, MARDEN KING'S CUNNING PLOT GATHERS MOMENTUM...

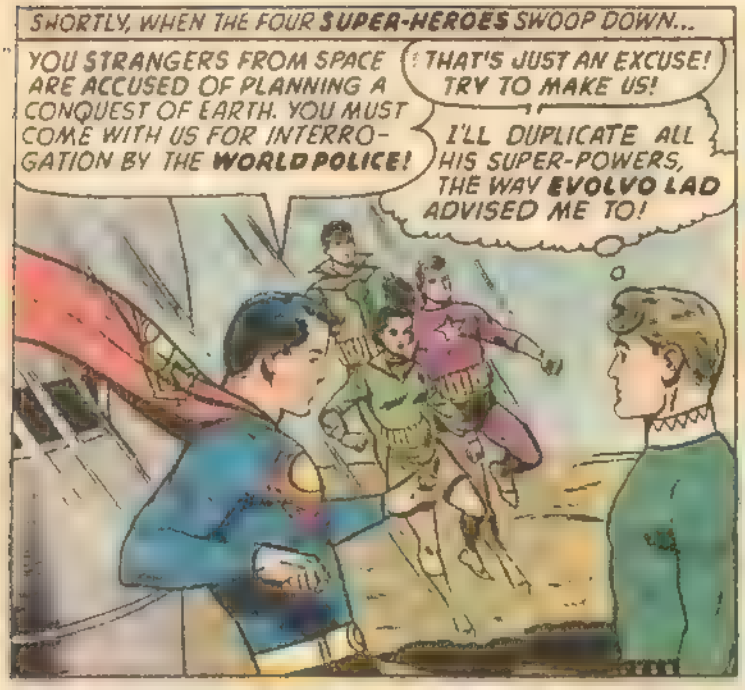
I JUST SAW IN MY SCANNERS THAT SOME OF THE SUPER-HEROES ARE COMING, TO DRIVE YOU OFF EARTH! THEY'RE JEALOUS!

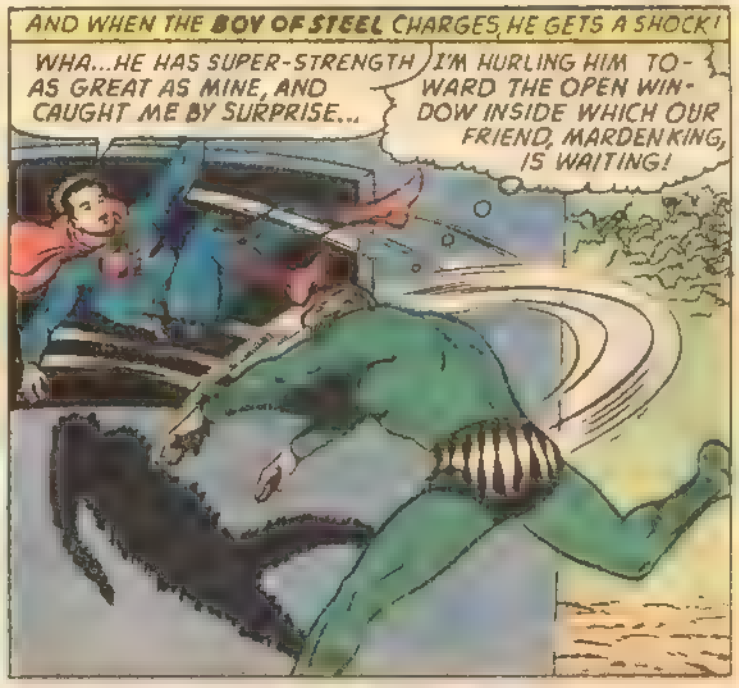
WE'LL FIGHT! **EVOLVO LAD**, YOU PLAN OUR STRATEGY!

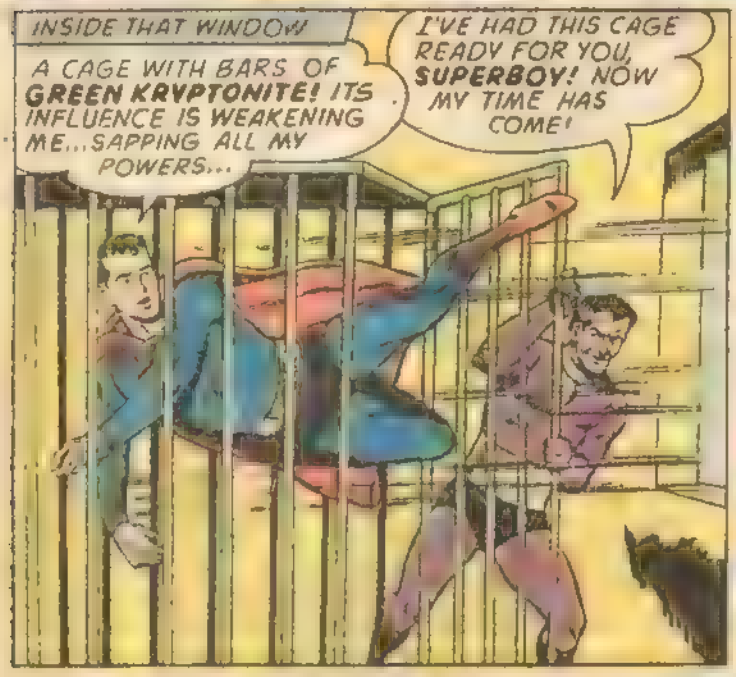
EVOLVO LAD USES HIS STRANGE POWER TO EVOLVE SUDDENLY INTO A FUTURE MAN WITH INCREDIBLE WISDOM!

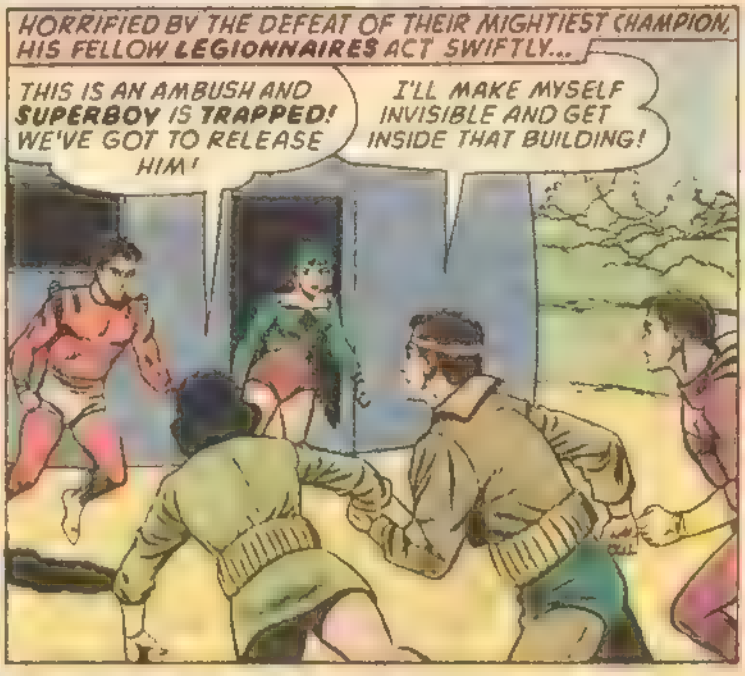
MY SUPERIOR BRAIN HAS ANALYZED ALL THE FACTORS AND I DEDUCE THAT THE ONE CALLED **SUPERBOY** WILL BE THE MOST DANGEROUS ATTACKER! I HAVE DEVISED A PLAN AS TO HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH HIM. LISTEN...

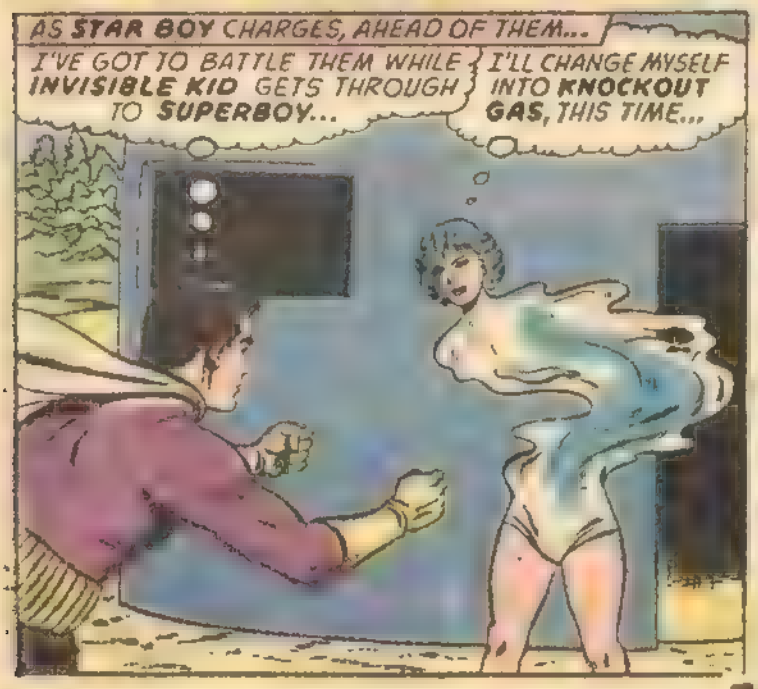
5


SHORTLY, WHEN THE FOUR SUPER-HEROES SWOOP DOWN...
YOU STRANGERS FROM SPACE ARE ACCUSED OF PLANNING A CONQUEST OF EARTH. YOU MUST COME WITH US FOR INTERROGATION BY THE WORLD POLICE!
THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE! TRY TO MAKE US!
I'LL DUPLICATE ALL HIS SUPER-POWERS, THE WAY EVOLVO LAD ADVISED ME TO!

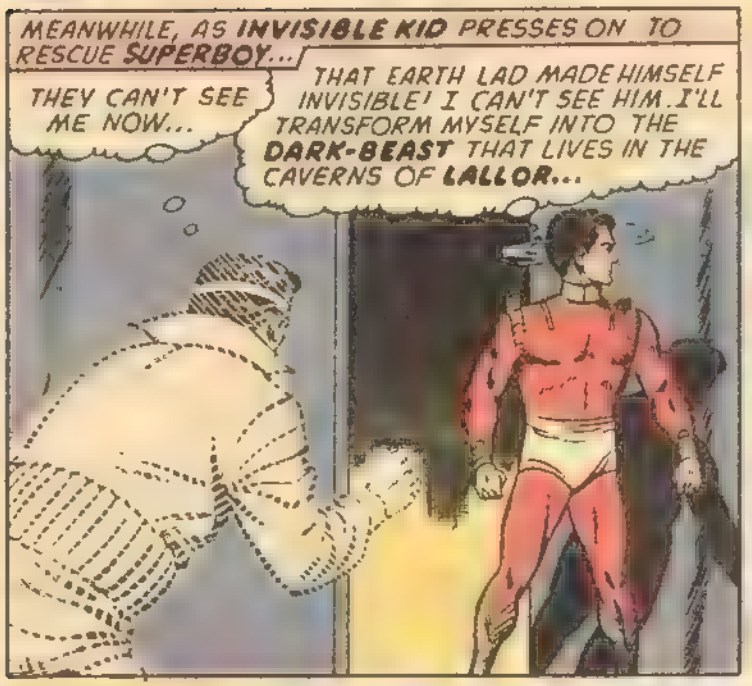

AND WHEN THE BOY OF STEEL CHARGES, HE GETS A SHOCK!
WHA...HE HAS SUPER-STRENGTH AS GREAT AS MINE, AND CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE...
I'M HURLING HIM TOWARD THE OPEN WINDOW INSIDE WHICH OUR FRIEND, MARDEN KING, IS WAITING!

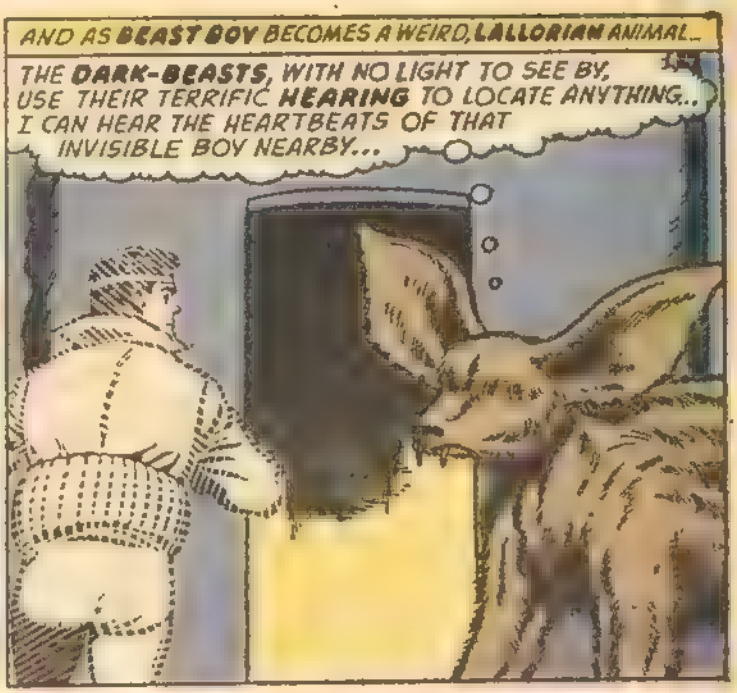

INSIDE THAT WINDOW
A CAGE WITH BARS OF GREEN KRYPTONITE! ITS INFLUENCE IS WEAKENING ME...SAPPING ALL MY POWERS...
I'VE HAD THIS CAGE READY FOR YOU, SUPERBOY! NOW MY TIME HAS COME!

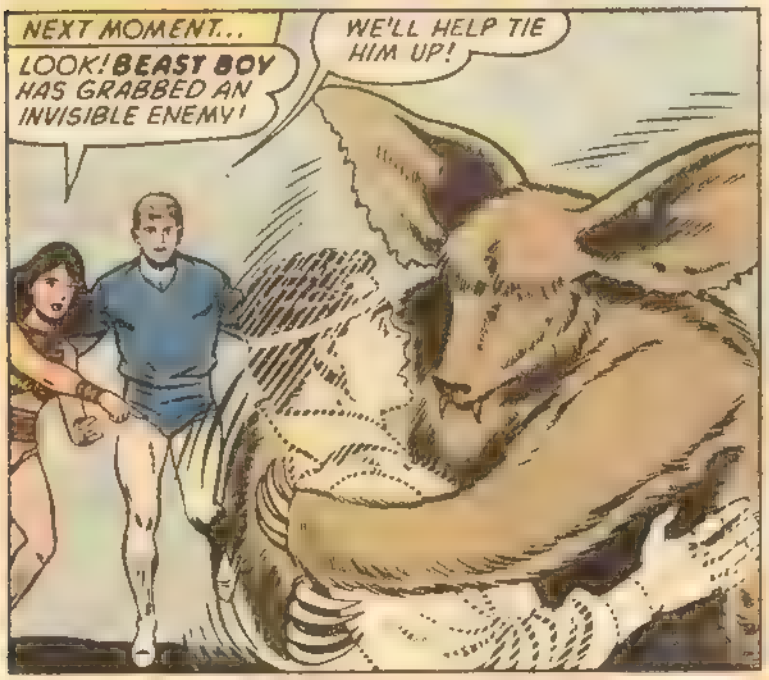

HORRIFIED BY THE DEFEAT OF THEIR MIGHTIEST CHAMPION, HIS FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES ACT SWIFTLY...
THIS IS AN AMBUSH AND SUPERBOY IS TRAPPED! WE'VE GOT TO RELEASE HIM!
I'LL MAKE MYSELF INVISIBLE AND GET INSIDE THAT BUILDING!

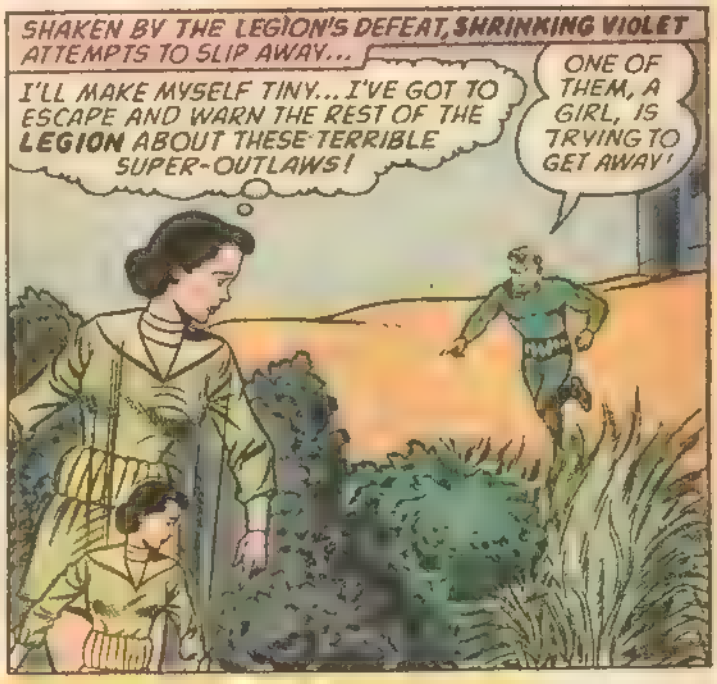

AS STAR BOY CHARGES, AHEAD OF THEM...
I'VE GOT TO BATTLE THEM WHILE INVISIBLE KID GETS THROUGH TO SUPERBOY...
I'LL CHANGE MYSELF INTO KNOCKOUT GAS, THIS TIME...

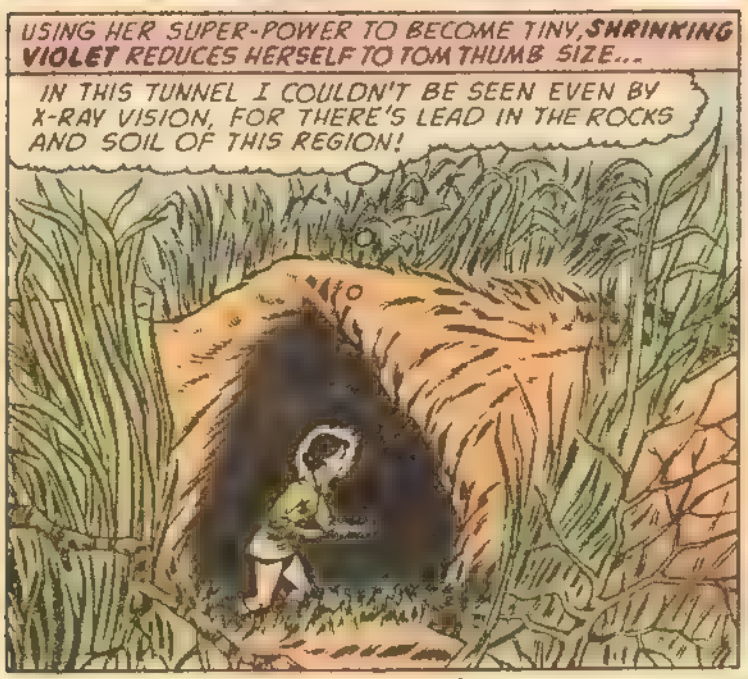
AND AS GAS GIRL USES HER WEIRD POWER...
EVERYTHING GOING DARK... I'M PASSING OUT...
6

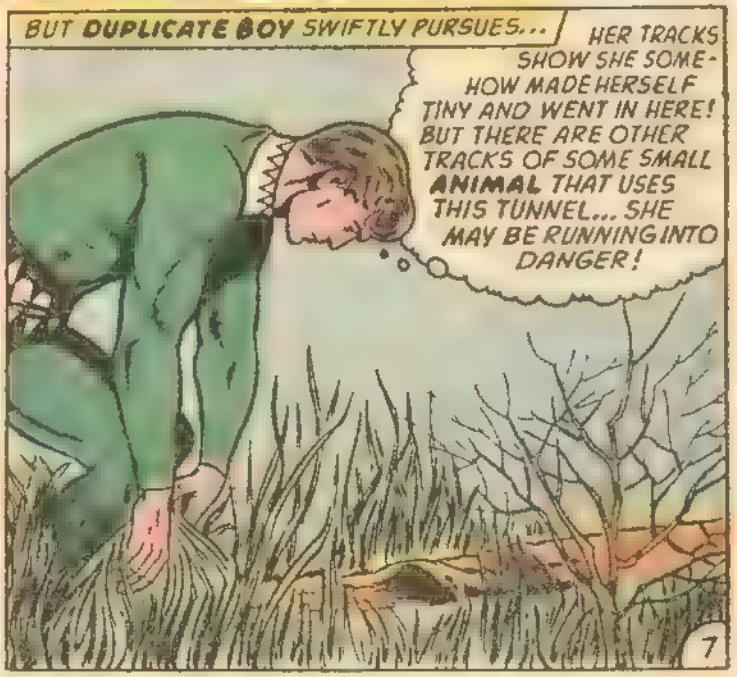

MEANWHILE, AS INVISIBLE KID PRESSES ON TO RESCUE SUPERBOY...
THEY CAN'T SEE ME NOW...
THAT EARTH LAD MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE! I CAN'T SEE HIM. I'LL TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO THE DARK-BEAST THAT LIVES IN THE CAVERNS OF LALLOR...


AND AS BEAST BOY BECOMES A WEIRD, LALLORIAN ANIMAL...
THE DARK-BEASTS, WITH NO LIGHT TO SEE BY, USE THEIR TERRIFIC HEARING TO LOCATE ANYTHING.. I CAN HEAR THE HEARTBEATS OF THAT INVISIBLE BOY NEARBY...


NEXT MOMENT...
LOOK! BEAST BOY HAS GRABBED AN INVISIBLE ENEMY!
WE'LL HELP TIE HIM UP!


SHAKEN BY THE LEGION'S DEFEAT, SHRINKING VIOLET ATTEMPTS TO SLIP AWAY...
I'LL MAKE MYSELF TINY... I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE AND WARN THE REST OF THE LEGION ABOUT THESE TERRIBLE SUPER-OUTLAWS!
ONE OF THEM, A GIRL, IS TRYING TO GET AWAY!


USING HER SUPER-POWER TO BECOME TINY, SHRINKING VIOLET REDUCES HERSELF TO TOM THUMB SIZE...
IN THIS TUNNEL I COULDN'T BE SEEN EVEN BY X-RAY VISION, FOR THERE'S LEAD IN THE ROCKS AND SOIL OF THIS REGION!


BUT DUPLICATE BOY SWIFTLY PURSUES...
HER TRACKS SHOW SHE SOMEHOW MADE HERSELF TINY AND WENT IN HERE! BUT THERE ARE OTHER TRACKS OF SOME SMALL ANIMAL THAT USES THIS TUNNEL... SHE MAY BE RUNNING INTO DANGER!
7

IMITATING HER SHRINKING POWER, DUPLICATE BOY MAKES HIMSELF PIGMY SIZE...
THESE DRIED TWIGS COULD HELP, IF I'M NOT TOO LATE!
AND IN HER REDUCED SIZE, SHRINKING VIOLET ENCOUNTERS THE MENACE!..
A WEASEL! IN MY TINY PRESENT SIZE, IT'S MORE TERRIBLE THAN A LION.. AND IT'S COMING TOWARD ME...
BUT UNEXPECTEDLY, DUPLICATE BOY COMES TO HER AID...
KEEP BEHIND ME, GIRL! THERE'S ONE THING THAT WILL STOP ANY ANIMAL ON LALLOR AND I HOPE IT'S TRUE HERE ON EARTH, ALSO...
... AND THAT'S FIRE! THESE DRIED TWIGS I JUST LIGHTED BY DUPLICATING SUPERBOY'S HEAT VISION ARE SCARING THE CREATURE BACK... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
AFTER BOTH BACK OUT OF THE TINY TUNNEL, AND RETURN TO THEIR NORMAL SIZE...
BUT NOW YOU'RE OUR PRISONER, AND MUST BE SECURED LIKE THE OTHERS WE CAPTURED! COME ALONG!
HE WAS SO BRAVE IN SAVING MY LIFE... AND IS SO HANDSOME... IF ONLY HE WEREN'T ONE OF THE SUPER-OUTLAWS...
LATER...
YOU HAVE SUPERBOY CAGED IN KRYPTONITE AND THE OTHERS TIED UP.. NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO DESTROY THEM!
WE DON'T TAKE LIFE! WE ONLY WANT TO PREVENT THEM FROM DRIVING US OFF THIS WORLD!
8

MOMENTARILY BALKED, KING'S CUNNING BRAIN WORKS FAST!

THE REST OF THE **SUPER-HEROES**, WHEN THEY RETURN FROM MISSIONS, WILL COME AFTER YOU! YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO TAKE THE **OFFENSE**... SEIZE THEIR CLUBHOUSE AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SECRET WEAPONS!

WE'LL DO IT, TO DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO STAY ON EARTH! WE'LL TAKE THE CAPTIVES WITH US!

AND AS THE SMALL SHIP FLASHES TOWARD **METROPOLIS**...

OUR FRIEND KING SAYS THE CLUBHOUSE OF OUR ENEMIES WILL BE LOCKED... BUT, **DUPLICATE BOY**, YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.

SORRY, **GAS GIRL**...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW A GIRL AS PRETTY AS **SHRINKING VIOLET** COULD BE ONE OF THE TYRANNICAL **SUPER-HEROES**!

THE FORMIDABLE LOCKS OF THE **LEGION** DO NOT DAUNT THE SUPER-OUTLAWS!

GAS GIRL, IN HER VAPOR FORM, CAN GO THROUGH THE **KEYHOLE**, AND UNLOCK THE DOOR!

GOOD! WHEN SHE OPENS IT, WE'LL TAKE THE CAPTIVES INSIDE, AND PREPARE THE CLUBHOUSE FOR DEFENSE AGAINST THE OTHER SUPER-HEROES!

CLUBHOUSE

AND SOON, INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE, MARDEN KING ACHIEVES HIS LONG-DREAMED-OF TRIUMPH!

I'VE DONE IT! I'VE TRICKED THESE MIGHTY SUPER-OUTLAWS INTO BECOMING MY ALLIES. WITH THEIR HELP, AND WITH THE **LEGION'S** OWN POWERFUL SECRETS HERE, I CAN WIPE OUT THE **SUPER-HEROES** FOREVER!

END PART I

ONE TO STARTLE YOU...

ONLY 25¢ bigger & better

ON SALE NOV. 16

D.C.'s BEST

TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

THE FEUD BETWEEN THE **SUPER-HEROES** AND THE **SUPER-OUTLAWS**, FOSTERED BY AN EVIL DECEPTION, THREATENS TO SHAKE WORLDS! HERE'S THE CLIMAX OF A MIGHTY CONFLICT AND OF A STRANGE ROMANCE, IN...

The BATTLE OF THE SUPER-TEAMS!

PART II

N-428

THAT SUPER-OUTLAW, **DUPLICATE BOY**, HAS DUPLICATED THE HUGE SIZE AND STRENGTH OF OUR **COLOSSAL BOY**... AND IS FIGHTING HIM ON EVEN TERMS!

JOHN FORTE

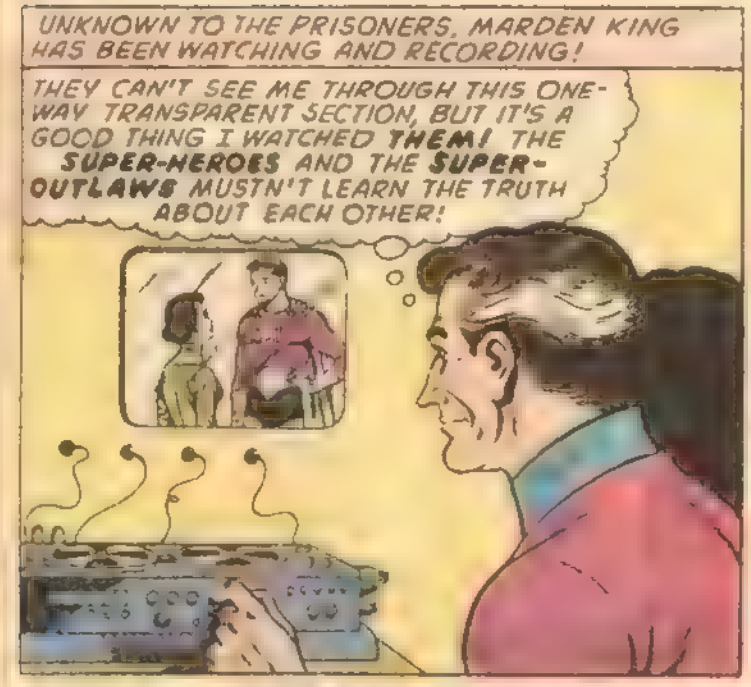
IMPRISONED IN THEIR OWN CLUBHOUSE, THE DEFEATED SUPER-HEROES TASTE DESPAIR!

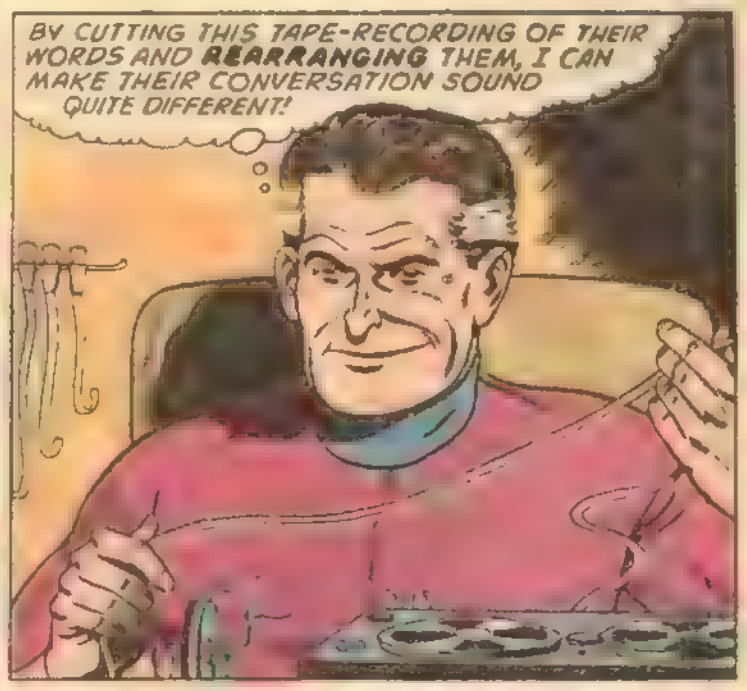
SUPERBOY IS PARALYZED AND HIS KRYPTONITE CAGE IS IN AN UNBREAKABLE CASE SO WE CAN'T FREE HIM! THERE'S NOT AN OPENING BY WHICH EVEN **VIOLET**, IF TINY, COULD ESCAPE!

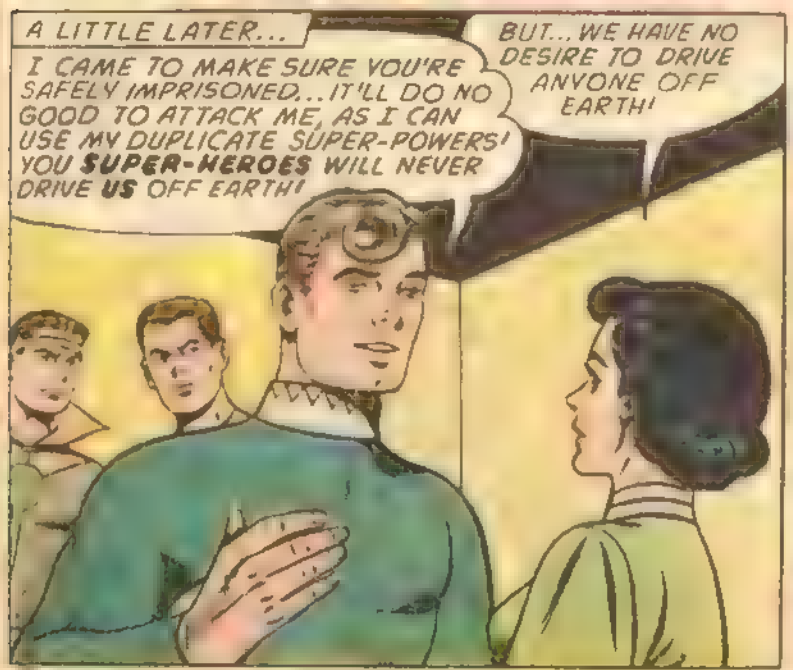
AND WORST OF ALL, OUR FELLOW-LEGIONNAIRES, AS THEY RETURN FROM THEIR MISSIONS, WILL WALK INTO THIS TRAP OF THE **SUPER-OUTLAWS!**

WHY ARE THEY SO RUTHLESS? **DUPLICATE BOY**, THEIR LEADER, DOESN'T LOOK EVIL.

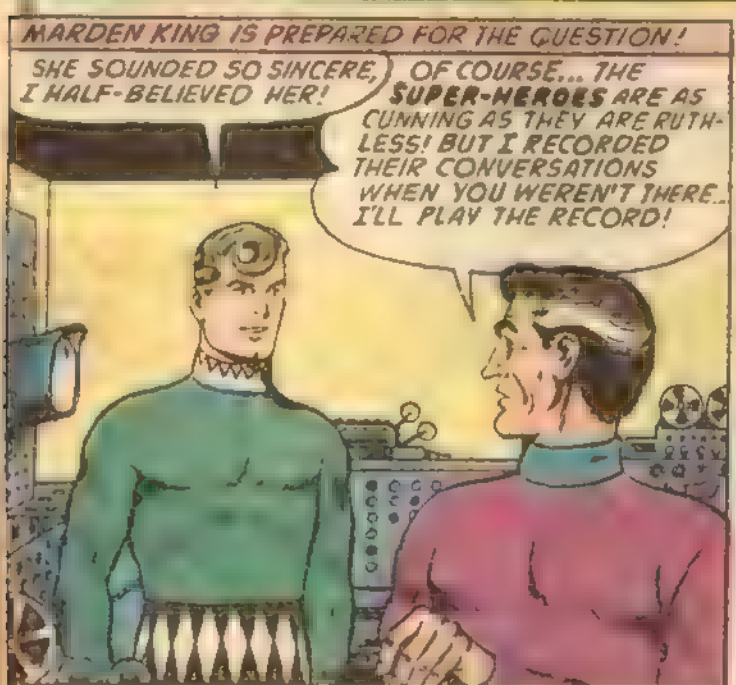
HOW CAN YOU MAKE EXCUSES FOR THEM, **VIOLET**? YOU SAW HOW THEY CONSPIRED WITH THAT PLOTTER, MARDEN KING, TO CAPTURE US!

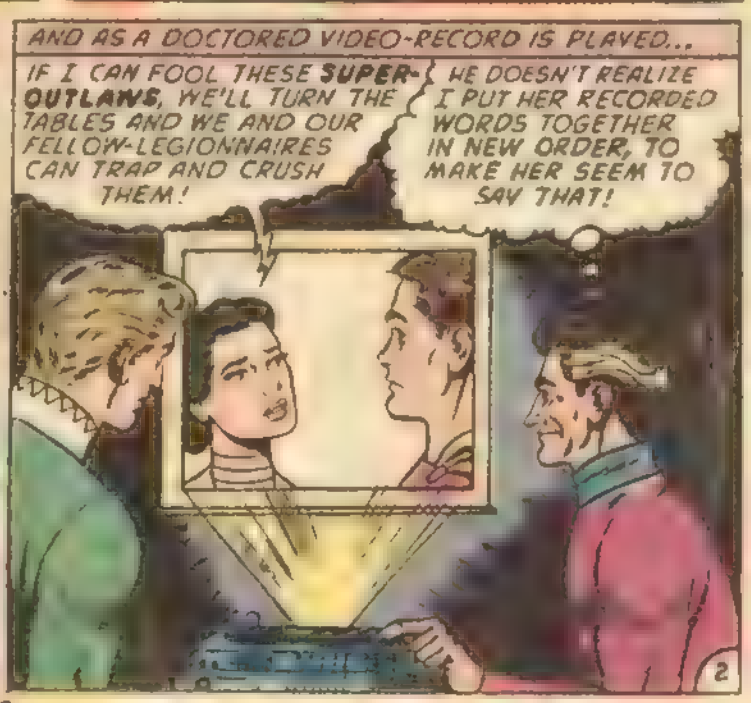

UNKNOWN TO THE PRISONERS, MARDEN KING HAS BEEN WATCHING AND RECORDING!
THEY CAN'T SEE ME THROUGH THIS ONE-WAY TRANSPARENT SECTION, BUT IT'S A GOOD THING I WATCHED THEM! THE SUPER-HEROES AND THE SUPER-OUTLAWS MUSTN'T LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT EACH OTHER!

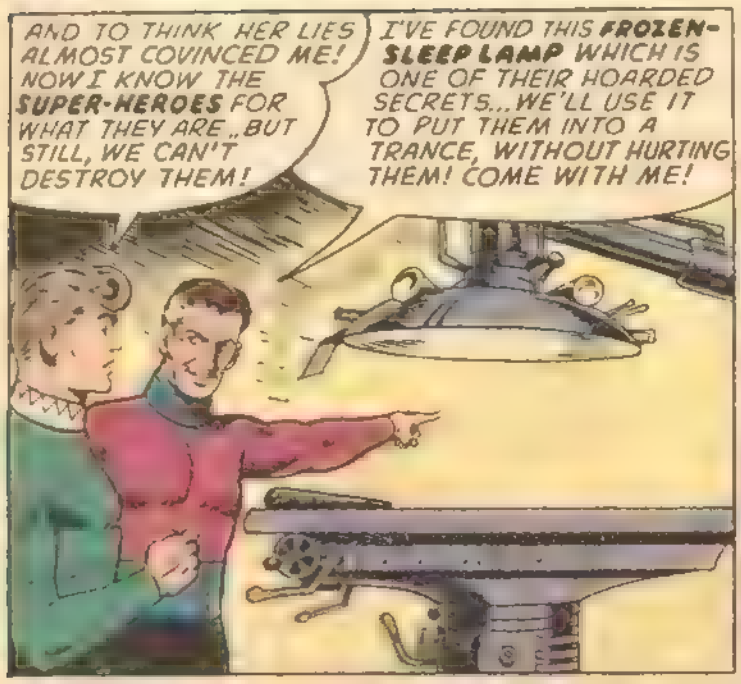

BY CUTTING THIS TAPE-RECORDING OF THEIR WORDS AND REARRANGING THEM, I CAN MAKE THEIR CONVERSATION SOUND QUITE DIFFERENT!

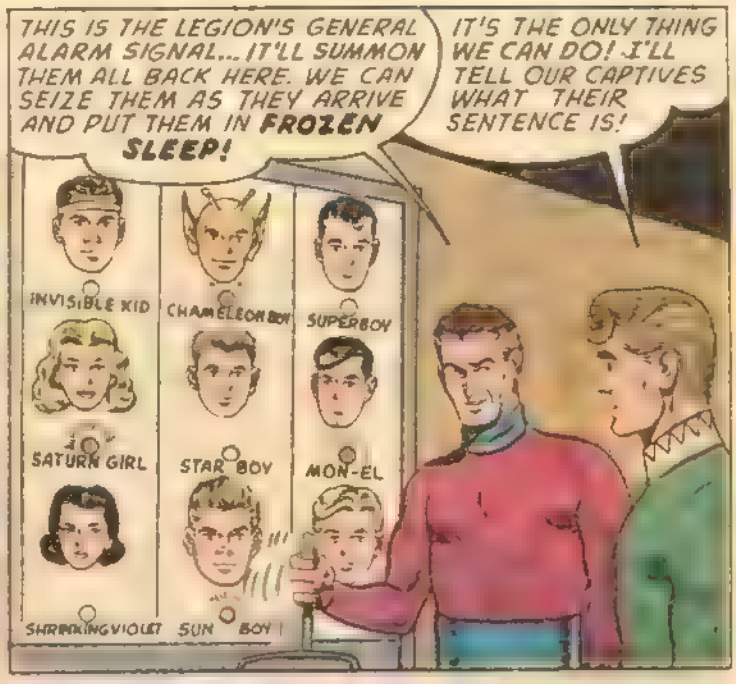

A LITTLE LATER...
I CAME TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFELY IMPRISONED... IT'LL DO NO GOOD TO ATTACK ME, AS I CAN USE MY DUPLICATE SUPER-POWERS! YOU SUPER-HEROES WILL NEVER DRIVE US OFF EARTH!
BUT... WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DRIVE ANYONE OFF EARTH!

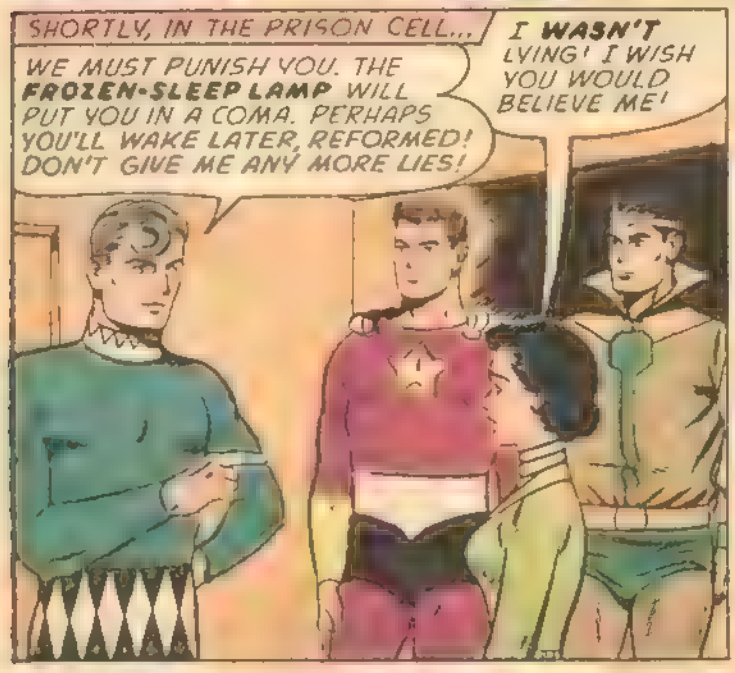
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT YOU SUPER-OUTLAWS WERE REPORTED BY KING TO HAVE COME HERE FOR CONQUEST!
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! I'LL FIND OUT ABOUT IT...

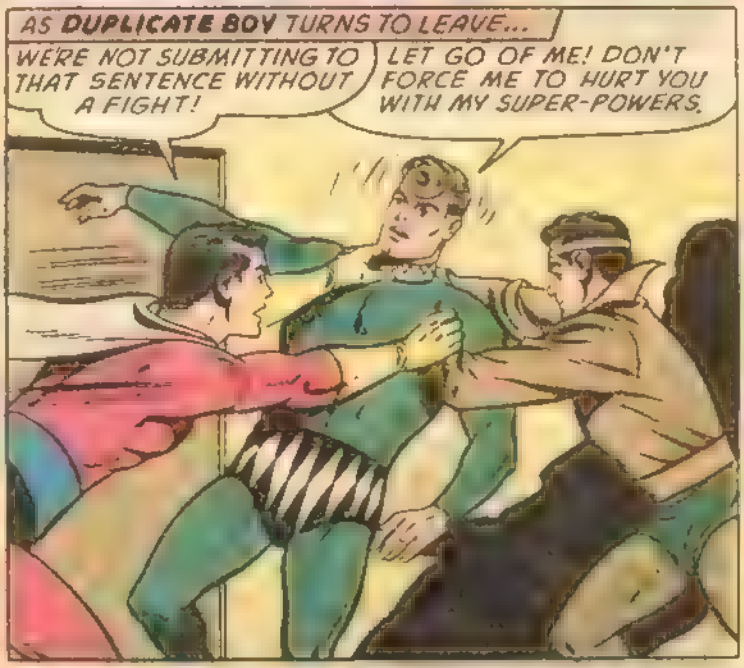

MARDEN KING IS PREPARED FOR THE QUESTION!
SHE SOUNDED SO SINCERE, I HALF-BELIEVED HER!
OF COURSE... THE SUPER-HEROES ARE AS CUNNING AS THEY ARE RUTHLESS! BUT I RECORDED THEIR CONVERSATIONS WHEN YOU WEREN'T THERE... I'LL PLAY THE RECORD!

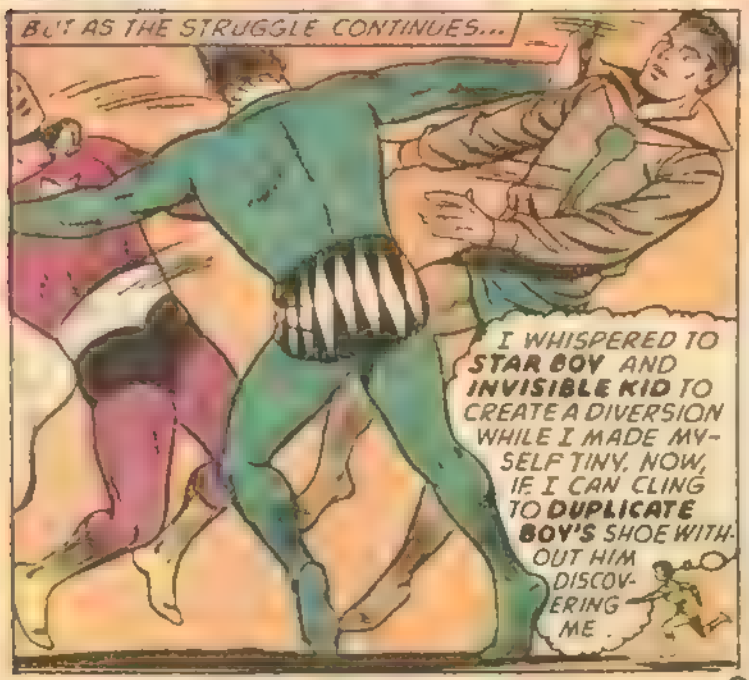

AND AS A DOCTORED VIDEO-RECORD IS PLAYED...
IF I CAN FOOL THESE SUPER-OUTLAWS, WE'LL TURN THE TABLES AND WE AND OUR FELLOW-LEGIONNAIRES CAN TRAP AND CRUSH THEM!
HE DOESN'T REALIZE I PUT HER RECORDED WORDS TOGETHER IN NEW ORDER, TO MAKE HER SEEM TO SAY THAT!
2

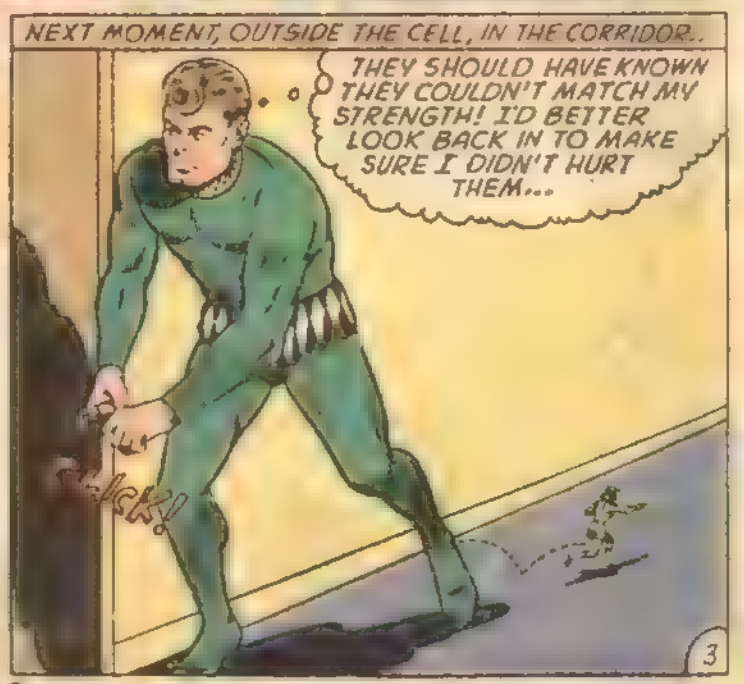

AND TO THINK HER LIES ALMOST COVINCED ME! NOW I KNOW THE SUPER-HEROES FOR WHAT THEY ARE.. BUT STILL, WE CAN'T DESTROY THEM!
I'VE FOUND THIS FROZEN-SLEEP LAMP WHICH IS ONE OF THEIR HOARDED SECRETS...WE'LL USE IT TO PUT THEM INTO A TRANCE, WITHOUT HURTING THEM! COME WITH ME!


THIS IS THE LEGION'S GENERAL ALARM SIGNAL... IT'LL SUMMON THEM ALL BACK HERE. WE CAN SEIZE THEM AS THEY ARRIVE AND PUT THEM IN FROZEN SLEEP!
IT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO! I'LL TELL OUR CAPTIVES WHAT THEIR SENTENCE IS!
INVISIBLE KID
CHAMELEON BOY
SUPERBOY
SATURN GIRL
STAR BOY
MON-EL
SHRINKING VIOLET
SUN BOY

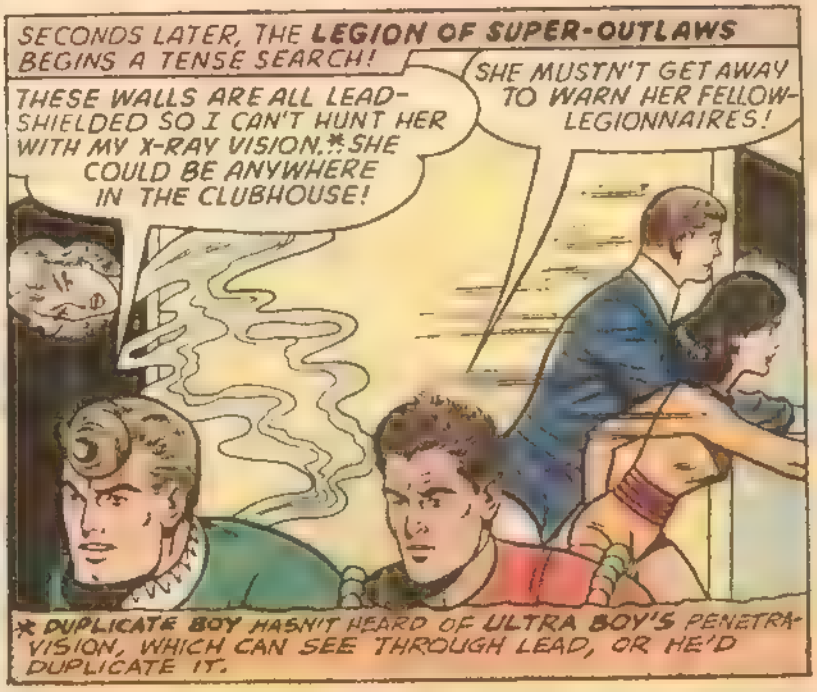

SHORTLY, IN THE PRISON CELL...
WE MUST PUNISH YOU. THE FROZEN-SLEEP LAMP WILL PUT YOU IN A COMA. PERHAPS YOU'LL WAKE LATER, REFORMED! DON'T GIVE ME ANY MORE LIES!
I WASN'T LYING! I WISH YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME!

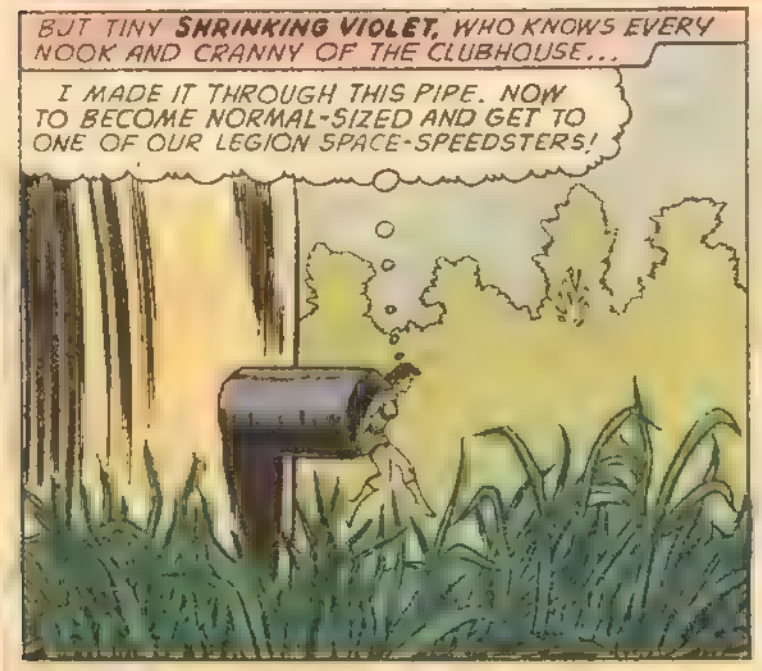

AS DUPLICATE BOY TURNS TO LEAVE...
WE'RE NOT SUBMITTING TO THAT SENTENCE WITHOUT A FIGHT!
LET GO OF ME! DON'T FORCE ME TO HURT YOU WITH MY SUPER-POWERS.

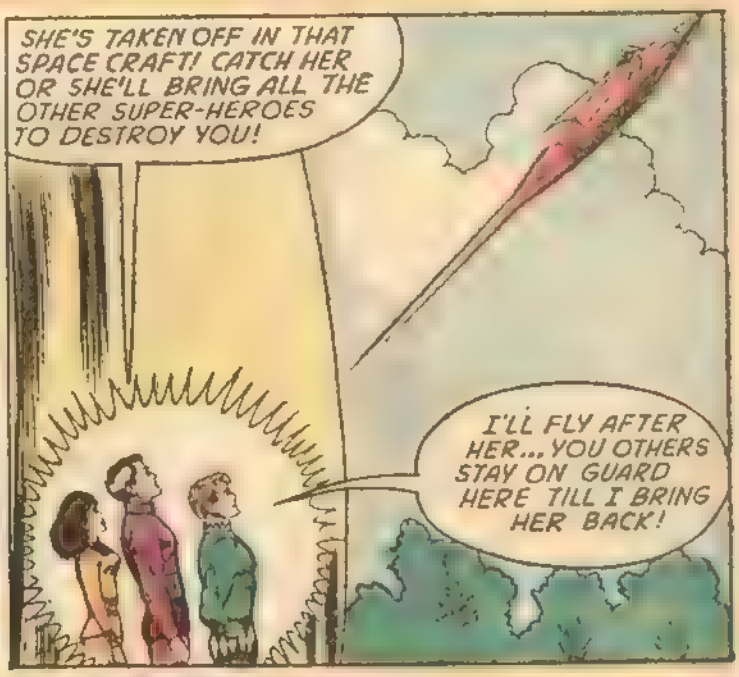

BUT AS THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES...
I WHISPERED TO STAR BOY AND INVISIBLE KID TO CREATE A DIVERSION WHILE I MADE MYSELF TINY. NOW, IF I CAN CLING TO DUPLICATE BOY'S SHOE WITHOUT HIM DISCOVERING ME.

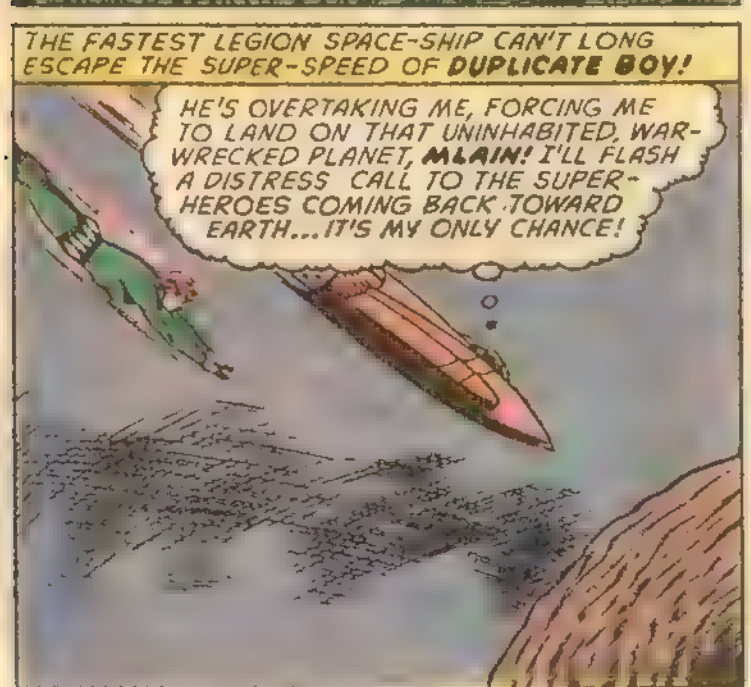

NEXT MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE CELL, IN THE CORRIDOR..
THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY COULDN'T MATCH MY STRENGTH! I'D BETTER LOOK BACK IN TO MAKE SURE I DIDN'T HURT THEM...
3

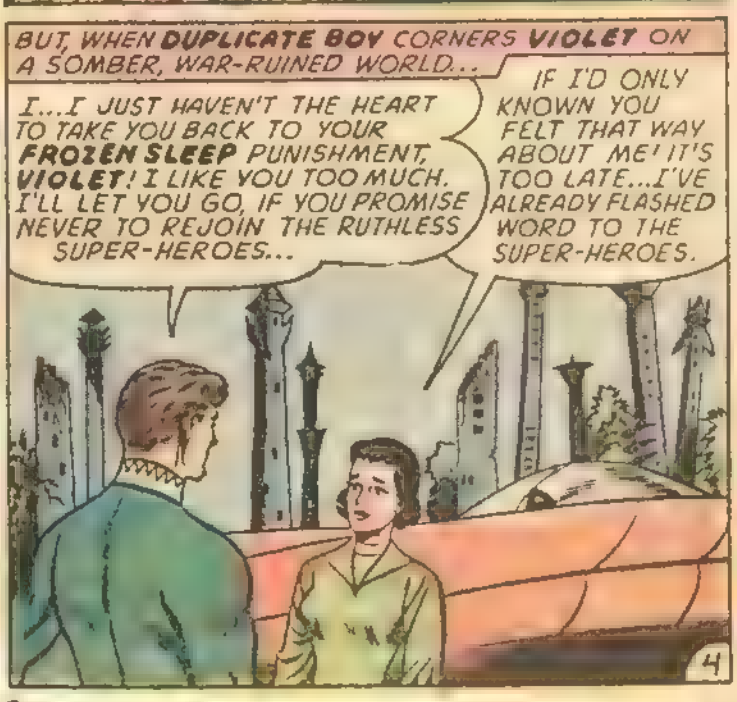
VIOLET ISN'T IN THERE...SHE MUST HAVE MADE HERSELF TINY AND SLIPPED OUT WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR! SHE'S GOT TO BE FOUND! I'LL ALERT THE OTHERS!


SECONDS LATER, THE LEGION OF SUPER-OUTLAWS BEGINS A TENSE SEARCH!
THESE WALLS ARE ALL LEAD-SHIELDED SO I CAN'T HUNT HER WITH MY X-RAY VISION.* SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE CLUBHOUSE!
SHE MUSTN'T GET AWAY TO WARN HER FELLOW-LEGIONNAIRES!
* DUPLICATE BOY HASN'T HEARD OF ULTRA BOY'S PENETRA-VISION, WHICH CAN SEE THROUGH LEAD, OR HE'D DUPLICATE IT.

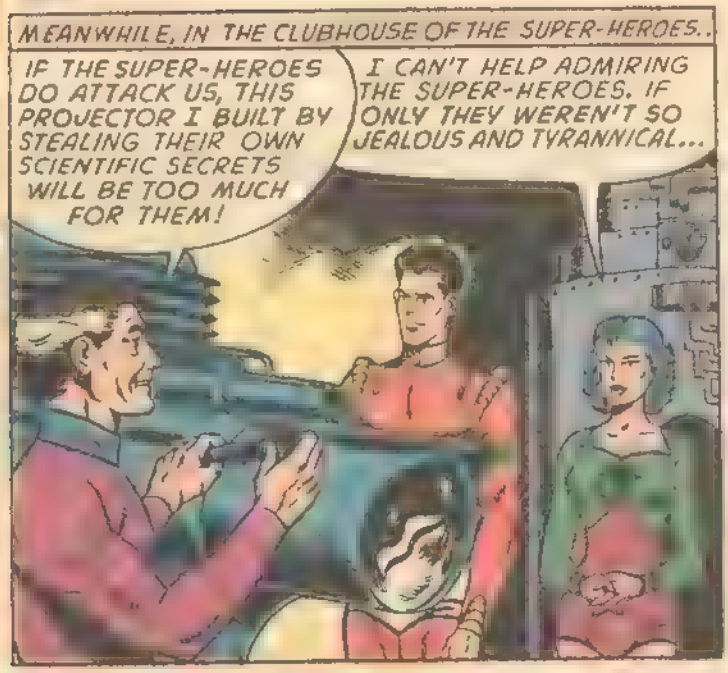

BUT TINY SHRINKING VIOLET, WHO KNOWS EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE CLUBHOUSE...
I MADE IT THROUGH THIS PIPE. NOW TO BECOME NORMAL-SIZED AND GET TO ONE OF OUR LEGION SPACE-SPEEDSTERS!

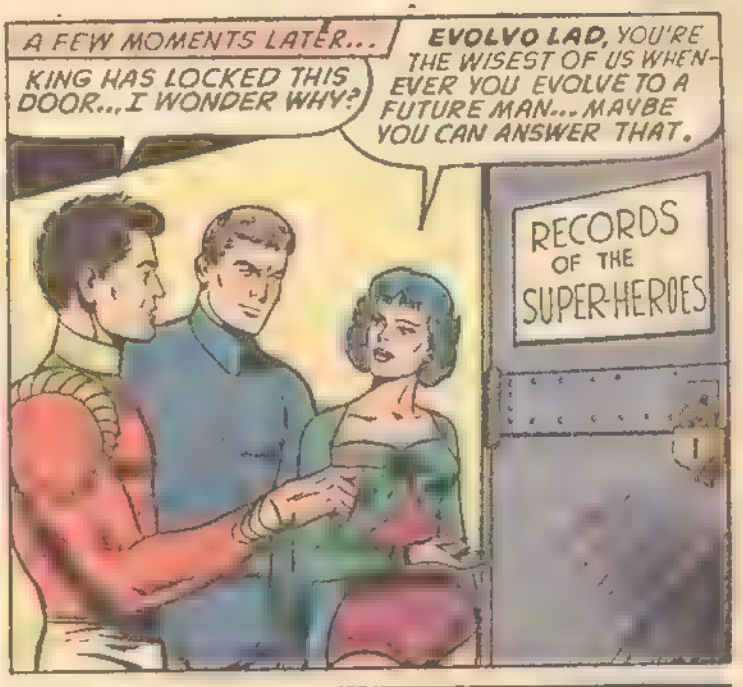

SHE'S TAKEN OFF IN THAT SPACE CRAFT! CATCH HER OR SHE'LL BRING ALL THE OTHER SUPER-HEROES TO DESTROY YOU!
I'LL FLY AFTER HER... YOU OTHERS STAY ON GUARD HERE TILL I BRING HER BACK!

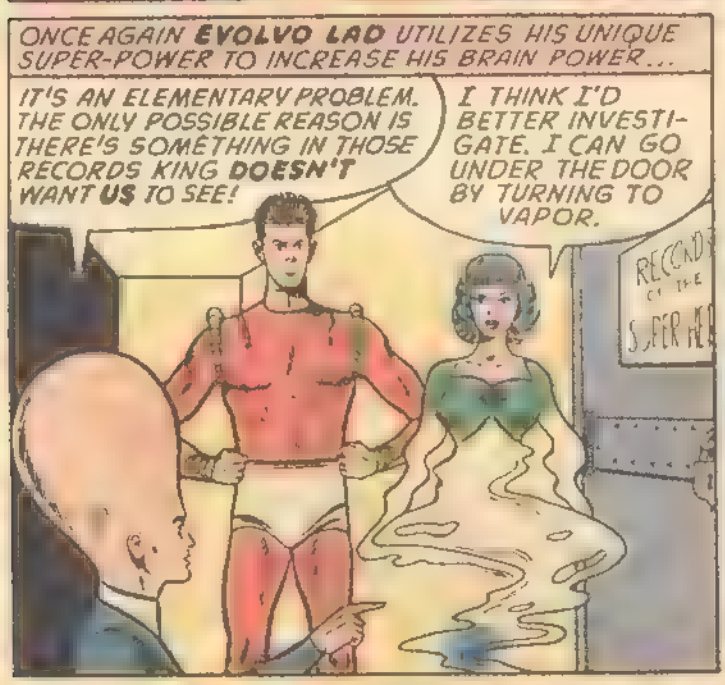

THE FASTEST LEGION SPACE-SHIP CAN'T LONG ESCAPE THE SUPER-SPEED OF DUPLICATE BOY!
HE'S OVERTAKING ME, FORCING ME TO LAND ON THAT UNINHABITED, WAR-WRECKED PLANET, MLAIN! I'LL FLASH A DISTRESS CALL TO THE SUPER-HEROES COMING BACK TOWARD EARTH... IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

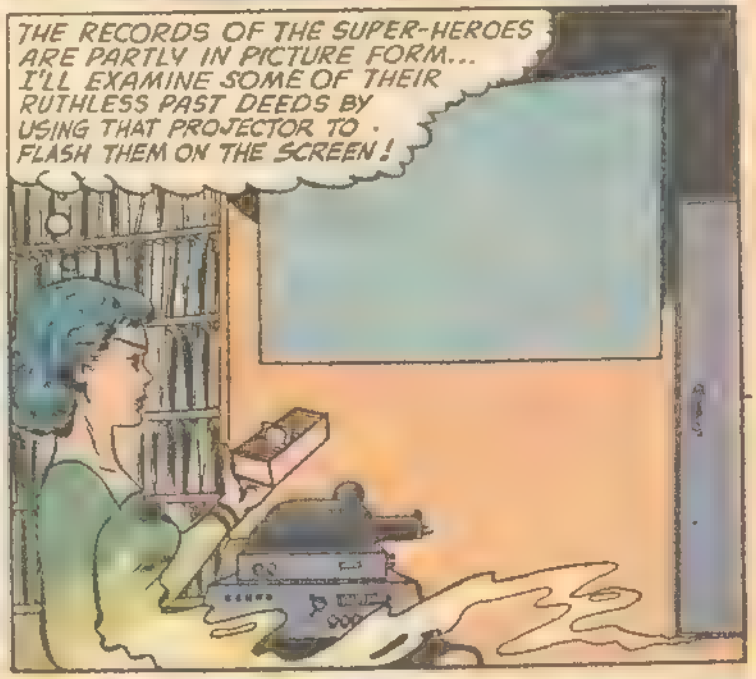

BUT, WHEN DUPLICATE BOY CORNERS VIOLET ON A SOMBER, WAR-RUINED WORLD...
I...I JUST HAVEN'T THE HEART TO TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR FROZEN SLEEP PUNISHMENT, VIOLET! I LIKE YOU TOO MUCH. I'LL LET YOU GO, IF YOU PROMISE NEVER TO REJOIN THE RUTHLESS SUPER-HEROES...
IF I'D ONLY KNOWN YOU FELT THAT WAY ABOUT ME! IT'S TOO LATE...I'VE ALREADY FLASHED WORD TO THE SUPER-HEROES.
4

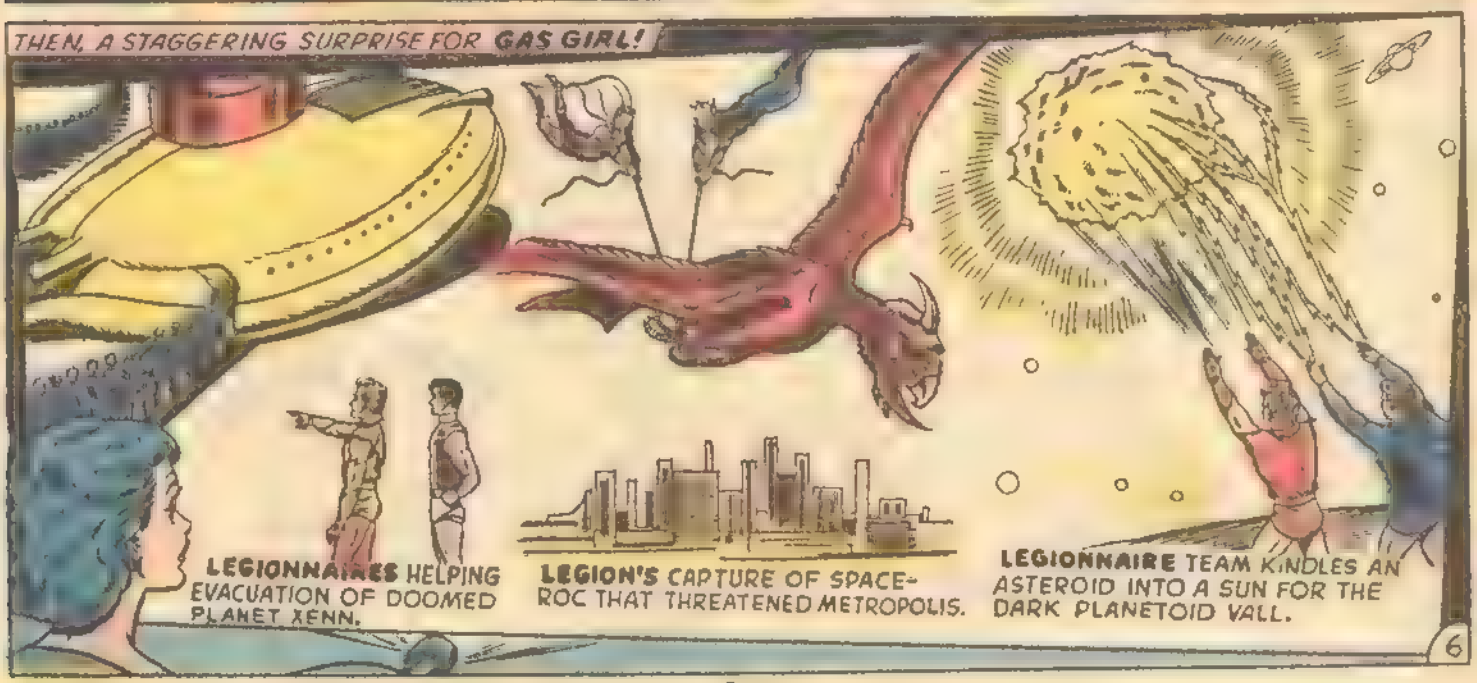
I WON'T RUN FROM THESE TYRANTS. I'M NOT AFRAID OF THEM!
AND THEY HEARD MY CALL THEY'RE HERE NOW! FLEE, DUPLICATE BOY.. BEFORE THEY CATCH YOU!
AND AS THE SUPER-HEROES POUR FORTH FROM THEIR SHIPS...
THERE'S THE SUPER-OUTLAW VIOLET'S CALL DESCRIBED . LET ME HANDLE HIM, COLOSSAL BOY!
NO, MON-EL. I'LL MAKE MYSELF HUGE AND TAKE CARE OF HIM FAST!
BUT A MOMENT LATER...
I CAN DUPLICATE ANY OF YOUR POWERS AND SO I'M MEETING YOU ON EVEN TERMS, COLOSSAL BOY— AT YOUR OWN SIZE!
MEET ME ON EVEN TERMS, OUTLAW! I'M MON-EL!
AS DUPLICATE BOY RESUMES HIS NORMAL SIZE AND DUPLICATES MON-EL'S SUPER-POWERS, AN EPIC COMBAT BEGINS.
TAKE HIM, MON-EL!
WHAT A BATTLE! THEY KNOCKED DOWN THAT RUINED PYLON, WHEN THEY STAGGERED INTO IT!
BUT, THE NEXT MOMENT...
PLEASE, MON-EL, LET DUPLICATE BOY GO! I.. I LOVE HIM!
SHE'LL BE HURT IF OUR FIGHT BRINGS DOWN ANOTHER PYLON.. I CAN'T RISK THAT!
I SURRENDER...
...BUT MY COMRADES WON'T SURRENDER AS I DID.. NOTHING CAN PREVENT A TERRIBLE BATTLE.
THEN A BATTLE IT WILL BE, FOR WE'LL FREE SUPER-BOY AND THE OTHERS, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SMASH THE CLUBHOUSE!
5


MEANWHILE, IN THE CLUBHOUSE OF THE SUPER-HEROES..
IF THE SUPER-HEROES DO ATTACK US, THIS PROJECTOR I BUILT BY STEALING THEIR OWN SCIENTIFIC SECRETS WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR THEM!
I CAN'T HELP ADMIRING THE SUPER-HEROES. IF ONLY THEY WEREN'T SO JEALOUS AND TYRANNICAL...


A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
KING HAS LOCKED THIS DOOR... I WONDER WHY?
EVOLVO LAD, YOU'RE THE WISEST OF US WHENEVER YOU EVOLVE TO A FUTURE MAN... MAYBE YOU CAN ANSWER THAT.
RECORDS OF THE SUPER-HEROES


ONCE AGAIN EVOLVO LAD UTILIZES HIS UNIQUE SUPER-POWER TO INCREASE HIS BRAIN POWER...
IT'S AN ELEMENTARY PROBLEM. THE ONLY POSSIBLE REASON IS THERE'S SOMETHING IN THOSE RECORDS KING DOESN'T WANT US TO SEE!
I THINK I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE. I CAN GO UNDER THE DOOR BY TURNING TO VAPOR.


THE RECORDS OF THE SUPER-HEROES ARE PARTLY IN PICTURE FORM... I'LL EXAMINE SOME OF THEIR RUTHLESS PAST DEEDS BY USING THAT PROJECTOR TO FLASH THEM ON THE SCREEN!


THEN, A STAGGERING SURPRISE FOR GAS GIRL!
LEGIONNAIRES HELPING EVACUATION OF DOOMED PLANET XENN.
LEGION'S CAPTURE OF SPACE-ROC THAT THREATENED METROPOLIS.
LEGIONNAIRE TEAM KINDLES AN ASTEROID INTO A SUN FOR THE DARK PLANETOID VALL.
6

WHEN GAS GIRL REVERTS TO HER VAPOR FORM AND RETURNS TO THE OTHERS...
THE RECORDS SHOW THAT THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ARE NOT TYRRANICAL AND SELFISH. THEY'RE GREAT CHAMPIONS OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE!
NO WONDER MARDEN KING DIDN'T WANT US TO SEE THOSE RECORDS ...HE'S LIED TO US, FROM THE FIRST! WE'LL HAVE IT OUT WITH HIM!
SHORTLY...
OF COURSE I LIED...I WANTED TO USE YOU TO SEIZE THIS CLUBHOUSE AND ITS SECRETS FOR ME! THIS PROJECTOR IS ONE THAT WILL DESTROY ANYONE'S SUPER-POWERS COMPLETELY... AND I'LL USE IT ON YOU IF YOU GET MUTINOUS!
WE DON'T CARE! WE WILL HELP YOU NO LONGER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US!
WE'VE GOT TO UNDO ALL THE EVIL YOU TRICKED US INTO PERFORMING. THAT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO TO SQUARE THINGS WITH THE LEGIONNAIRES!
HA, HA! IN A MOMENT YOU'LL BE WITHOUT POWERS! AND YOUR POWER CAN'T AFFECT ME, LIFE LASS, SINCE I'M ALREADY LIVING!
YOU'RE WRONG, KING! IT WAS YOUR CHAIR I USED MY POWER ON... AND IT WORKED!
IT'S HOLDING HIM FROM REACHING THE SWITCHBOARD... TIE HIM UP AND THEN WE'LL RELEASE THE THREE PRISONERS!
SOON, WHEN THE SUPER-HEROES AND THEIR CAPTIVE, DUPLICATE BOY, RETURN TO EARTH
WHY, THEY'VE FREED SUPERBOY, STAR BOY, AND INVISIBLE KID... AND HAVE BOUND MARDEN KING!
IT MAY BE A TRAP... BE READY FOR ACTION!
SUPER HERO CLUBHOUSE
DUPLICATE BOY, WE WERE DECEIVED! THE SUPER-HEROES NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF DRIVING US OFF EARTH!
I FAILED TO REVENGE MY BROTHER..BUT EVEN THOUGH I GO TO PRISON, I'LL HAVE VENGEANCE ON YOU SUPER-HEROES SOME DAY!
7

A LITTLE LATER...
WE WERE ALMOST GUILTY OF A GREAT CRIME AGAINST THE SUPER-HEROES... WE'RE NOT WORTHY TO HAVE SUPER-POWERS! WALKING INTO THE FORCE OF KING'S MACHINE WILL NULLIFY OUR POWERS FOREVER!
IT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO, SINCE OUR POWERS NEARLY CAUSED GREAT WRONG!
BUT, NEXT MOMENT..
WAIT! I OVERHEARD YOU WITH MY SUPER-HEARING AND WAS JUST IN TIME TO STOP YOUR SACRIFICE! WE'VE TALKED IT OVER AND WE'RE TAKING YOU BACK TO YOUR NATIVE LALLOR!
LATER, ON THE PLANET LALLOR...
PEOPLE OF LALLOR, THESE FIVE WITH THEIR GREAT POWERS CAN BE YOUR CHAMPIONS, YOUR HELPERS.. NOT OUTLAWS, AS YOUR PRIME MINISTER TRIED TO MAKE THEM!
HURRAH FOR THE SUPER-HEROES OF LALLOR! WE DROVE PRIME MINISTER VORR FROM OFFICE WHEN WE LEARNED WHAT HE DID!
AND LATER, AS THE SUPER-HEROES OF EARTH PREPARE TO RETURN HOME
WILL WE EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN?
I THINK SO! REMEMBER, I, TOO, HAVE THE POWER OF SUPER-SPEED WHEN I DESIRE IT, AND CAN REACH EARTH SWIFTLY! THIS ISN'T THE END FOR US, VIOLET!
THE END

ON SALE
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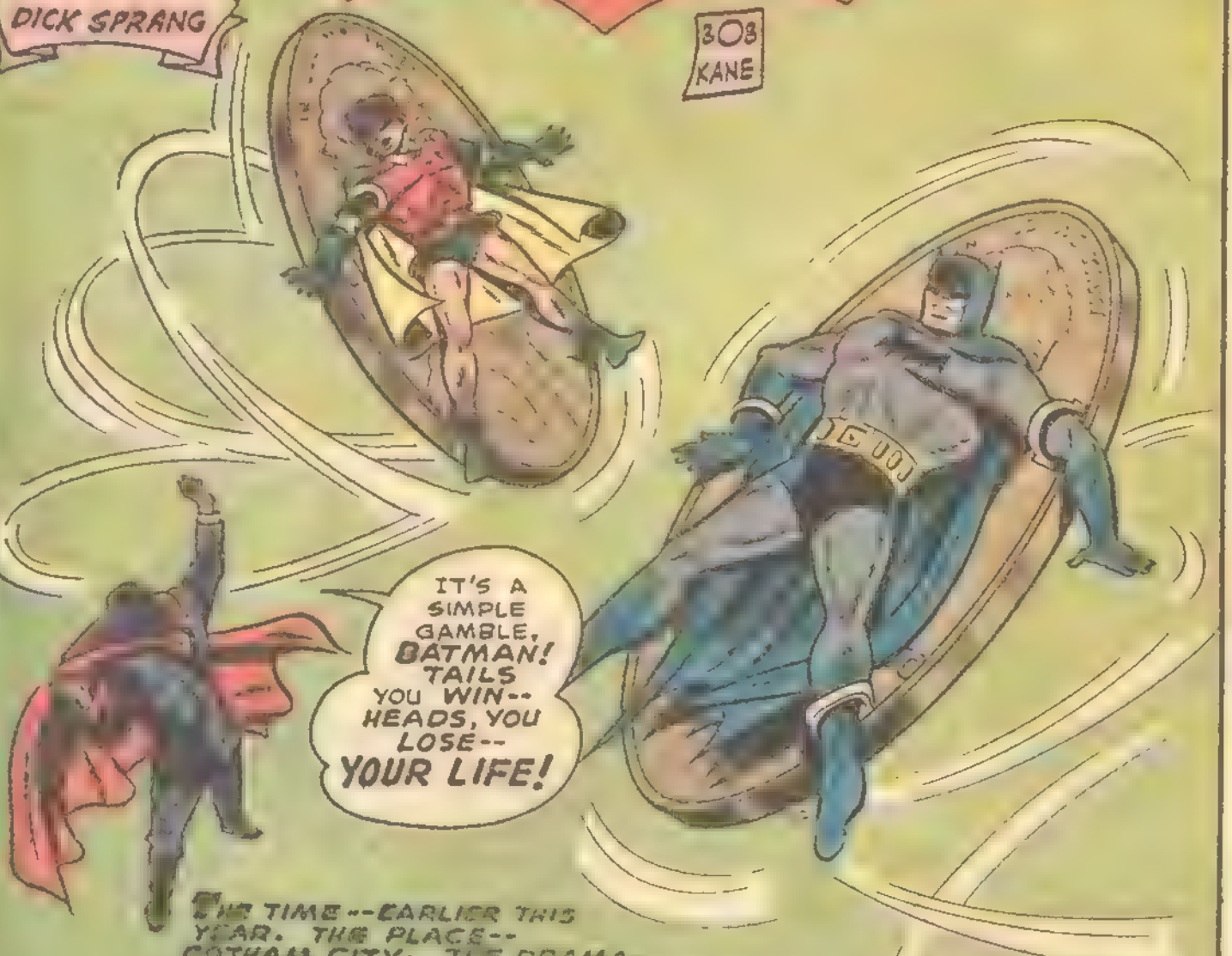
ART: DICK SPRANG

BOB KANE

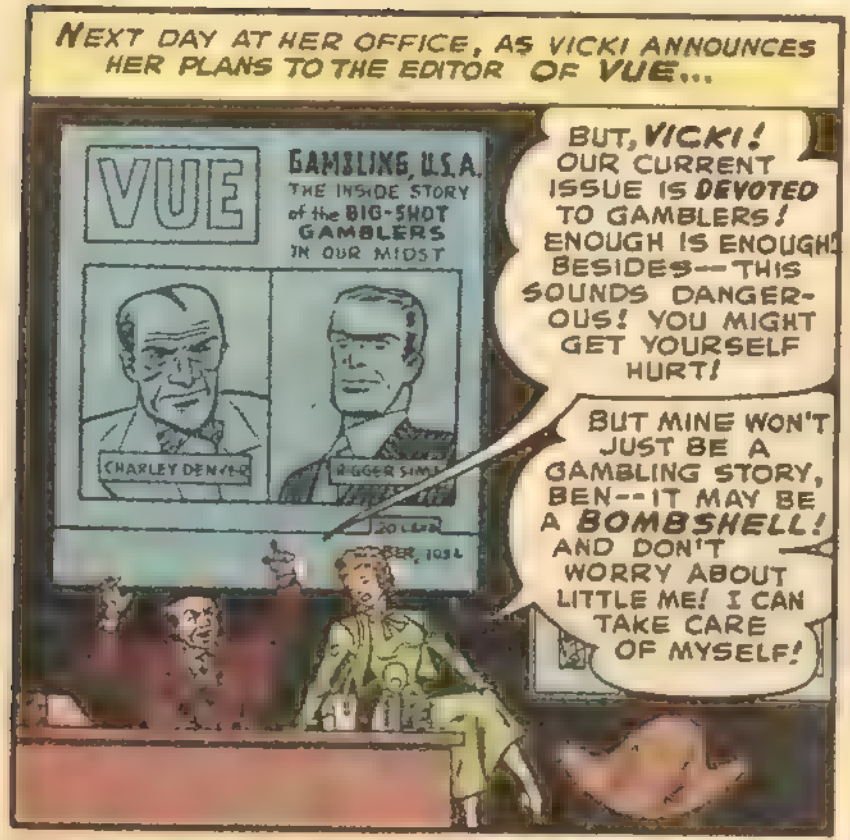


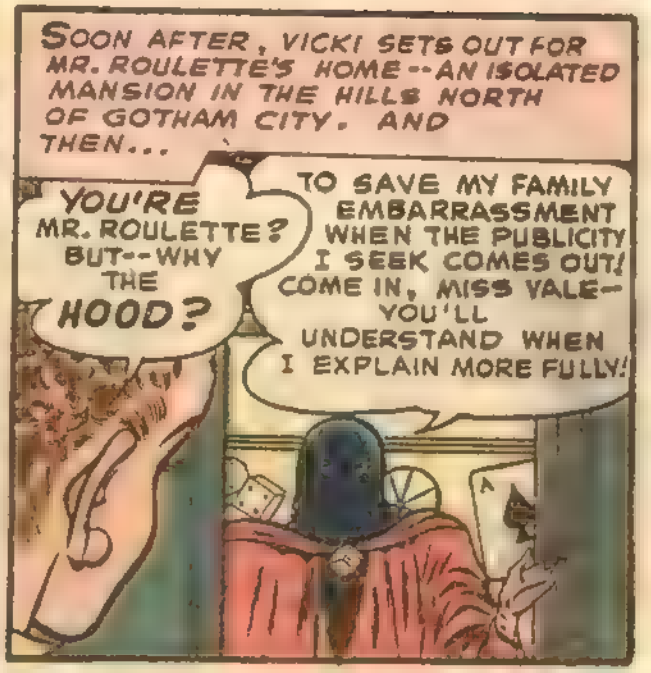
THE TIME--EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE PLACE--COTHAM CITY. THE DRAMA--ONE OF THE STRANGEST EVER TO FLASH ACROSS THE HUMAN SCENE! A HARDENED GAMBLER SEEKS A NEW THRILL OUT OF LIFE! HIS "GAME" BRINGS A GASP TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY! HIS TERROR REACHES OUT TO CLUTCH BATMAN AND ROBIN! THRILL TO THE STRANGEST STAKES EVER WAGERED IN THE STORY OF...

MR. ROULETTE'S GREATEST GAMBLE

FROM: BATMAN #75 (FEB.-MAR., 1953).

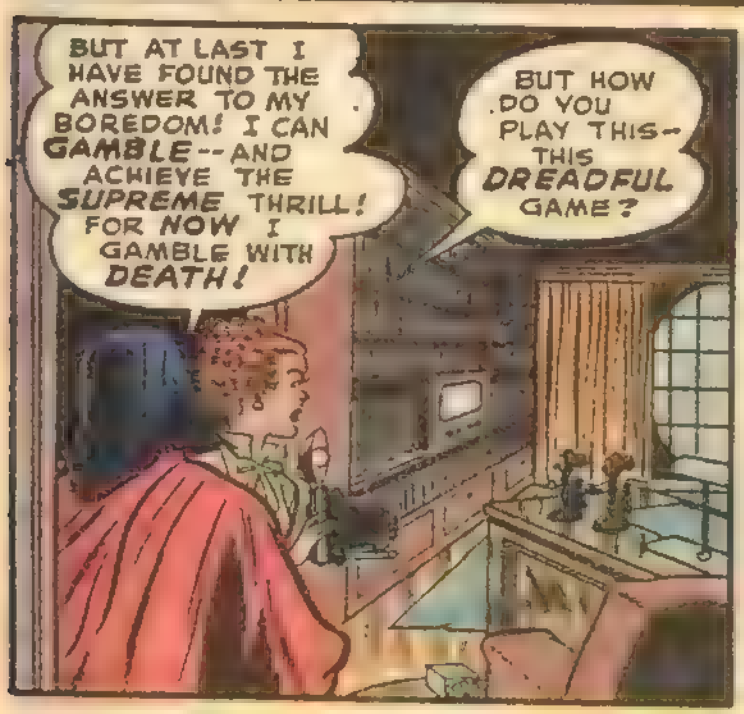
ONE EVENING AS A VISITOR CALLS ON VUE MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHER VICKI VALE, IN HER GOTHAM CITY APARTMENT...
MY NAME'S MEL HUGHES--I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE ON AN ERRAND FOR A CLIENT. THESE PACKAGES ARE FOR YOU!
PACKAGES... FOR... ME? WHY---THEY'RE IDENTICAL! WHAT IS ALL THIS, ANYWAY?
IN ANSWER, MEL HUGHES HANDS OVER THE PACKAGES--AND A NOTE FOR VICKI TO READ...
Dear Miss Vale— Here are two packages. One is worth $1,000--- one is worthless! Gamble, Miss Vale! Gamble on your luck! Choose one of the packages! Open it! Mr. Roulette
MR. ROULETTE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF GAG? OH, WELL--I'LL PLAY ALONG! I JUST LOVE MYSTERY!
AND THEN, AS VICKI OPENS ONE OF THE PACKAGES...
WHY--IT'S FOR REAL! A $1000 BILL--AND IT'S GENUINE! I'M--I'M SPEECHLESS!
YOU'RE A LUCKY GAMBLER, MISS VALE! YOU PICKED THE RIGHT PACKAGE! NOW OPEN THE OTHER!
A MOMENT LATER...
WHY--THERE WAS ANOTHER $1,000 BILL IN HERE--BUT IT DISINTEGRATED BEFORE MY EYES!
YES--IT WAS TREATED WITH A CHEMICAL THAT DESTROYED IT UPON CONTACT WITH AIR. BUT LOOK, MISS VALE--THERE'S ANOTHER NOTE FOR YOU!
AND AS VICKI READS THE SECOND NOTE...
If you opened this package first, Miss Vale, you gambled--and lost! But you lost merely $1,000. I gamble with practically every breath I take---but if I lose, I die! For I gamble with death! If you want a sensational story, come visit me! Mr. Roulette
HE GAMBLES WITH DEATH? BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! AND WHY PICK ON ME FOR ALL THIS?
MY CLIENT HAS LONG ADMIRED YOUR WORK--HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU A SCOOP. I'VE LEFT HIS ADDRESS ON YOUR TABLE. GOOD NIGHT, MISS VALE...
$1,000---PACKAGES --CHEMICALS-- SCOOPS! I'M A LITTLE BEWILDERED, ALL RIGHT-- BUT THIS IS ONE STORY I'M GOING TO COVER!
2.


NEXT DAY AT HER OFFICE, AS VICKI ANNOUNCES HER PLANS TO THE EDITOR OF VUE...
VUE
GAMBLING, U.S.A.
THE INSIDE STORY of the BIG-SHOT GAMBLERS IN OUR MIDST
CHARLEY DENVER
BUT, VICKI! OUR CURRENT ISSUE IS DEVOTED TO GAMBLERS! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! BESIDES--THIS SOUNDS DANGEROUS! YOU MIGHT GET YOURSELF HURT!
BUT MINE WON'T JUST BE A GAMBLING STORY, BEN--IT MAY BE A BOMBSHELL! AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT LITTLE ME! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!

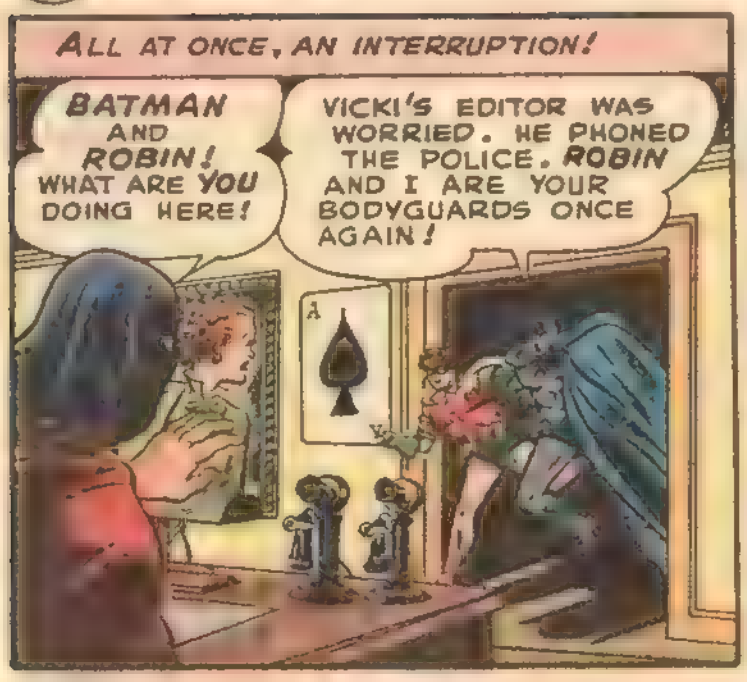

SOON AFTER, VICKI SETS OUT FOR MR. ROULETTE'S HOME--AN ISOLATED MANSION IN THE HILLS NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY. AND THEN...
YOU'RE MR. ROULETTE? BUT--WHY THE HOOD?
TO SAVE MY FAMILY EMBARRASSMENT WHEN THE PUBLICITY I SEEK COMES OUT! COME IN, MISS VALE--YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN I EXPLAIN MORE FULLY!

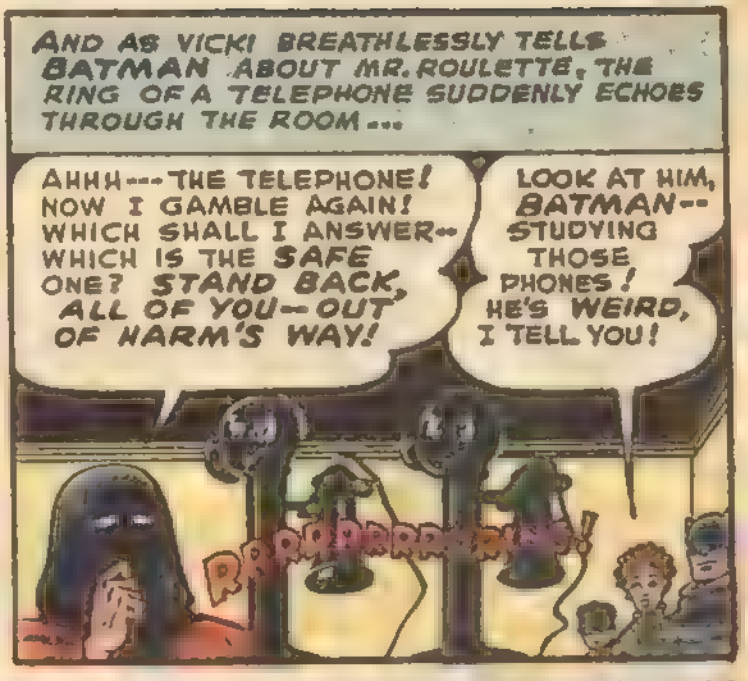
YOU SEE, MISS VALE--I MAY DIE SUDDENLY--TODAY, TOMORROW, NEXT WEEK, NEXT YEAR--WHO KNOWS? AND WHEN IT HAPPENS, THE WORLD MUST UNDERSTAND WHY...
THEN START WITH ME, MR. ROULETTE. WHY?

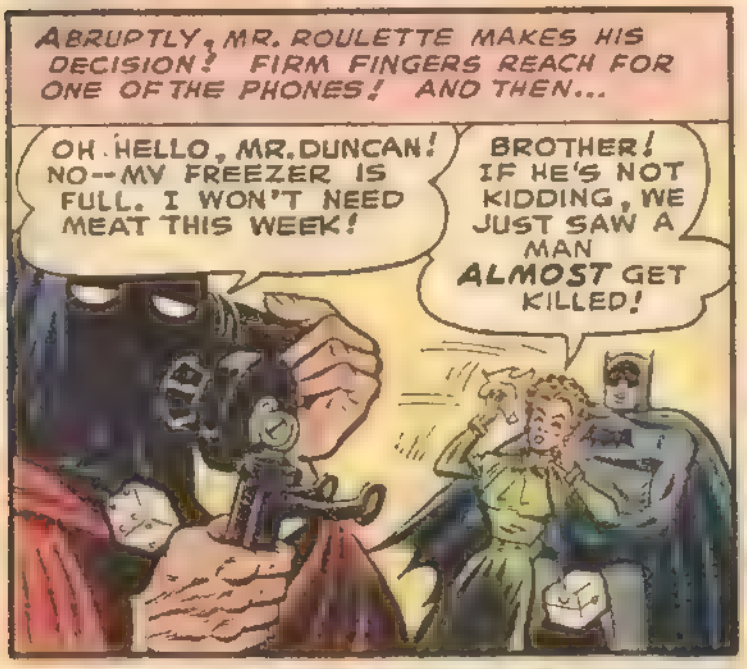
BECAUSE I AM AN AFFIRMED GAMBLER! BECAUSE GAMBLING IS ALL I CARE ABOUT IN LIFE--AND ALL FORMS OF GAMBLING HAVE GROWN DULL! NO LONGER DO I THRILL TO BETTING FOR MONEY ALONE!

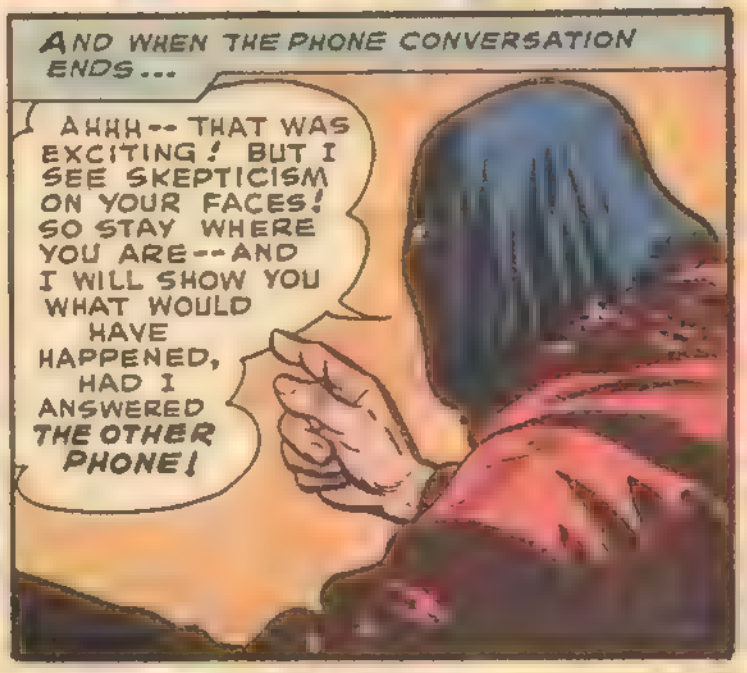

BUT AT LAST I HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER TO MY BOREDOM! I CAN GAMBLE--AND ACHIEVE THE SUPREME THRILL! FOR NOW I GAMBLE WITH DEATH!
BUT HOW DO YOU PLAY THIS--THIS DREADFUL GAME?

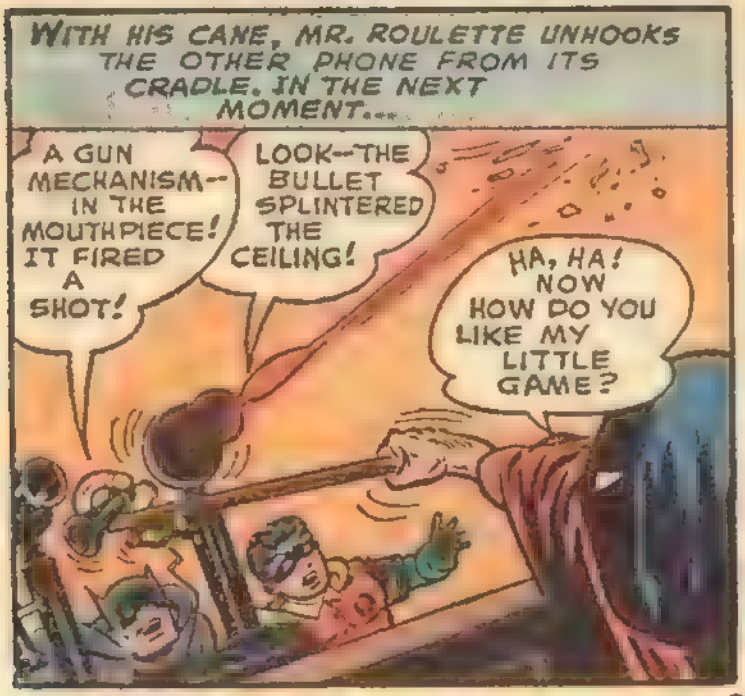
HA-HA! THAT IS MY BRAINSTORM! THIS WHOLE HOUSE---I HAD IT EXPERTLY BOOBY-TRAPPED BY ENGINEERS. DEATH LURKS ANYWHERE--OR EVERYWHERE! I GAMBLE MY LIFE EACH TIME I OPEN A DOOR--OR SELECT A BOOK--OR TURN ON A LIGHT! YOU'LL SEE!
3

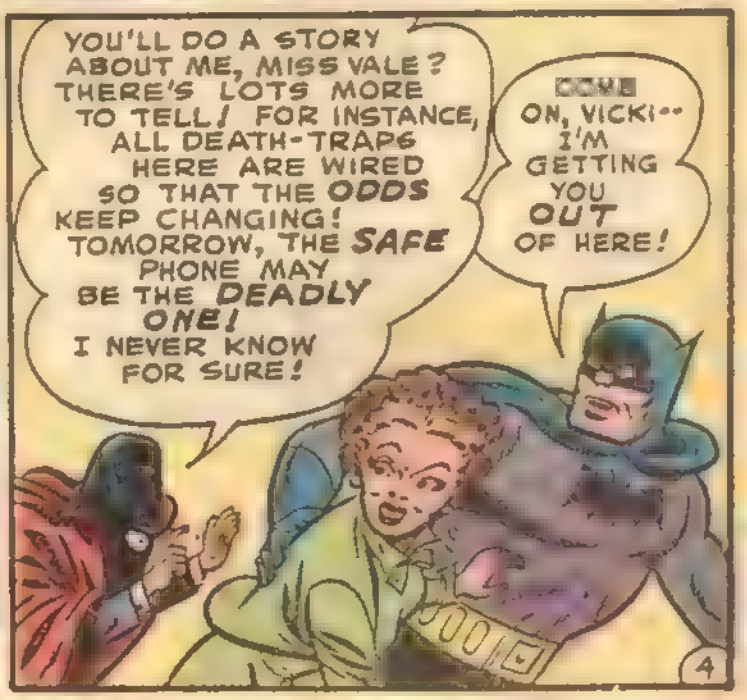

ALL AT ONCE, AN INTERRUPTION!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!
VICKI'S EDITOR WAS WORRIED. HE PHONED THE POLICE. ROBIN AND I ARE YOUR BODYGUARDS ONCE AGAIN!


AND AS VICKI BREATHLESSLY TELLS BATMAN ABOUT MR. ROULETTE, THE RING OF A TELEPHONE SUDDENLY ECHOES THROUGH THE ROOM...
AHHH---THE TELEPHONE! NOW I GAMBLE AGAIN! WHICH SHALL I ANSWER--WHICH IS THE SAFE ONE? STAND BACK, ALL OF YOU--OUT OF HARM'S WAY!
LOOK AT HIM, BATMAN--STUDYING THOSE PHONES! HE'S WEIRD, I TELL YOU!
RRRRRRRRRR-RING!

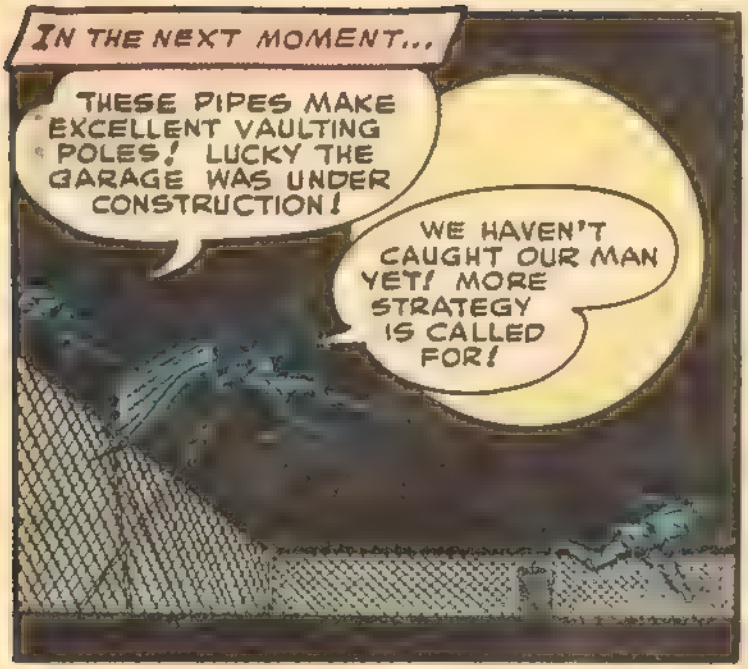

ABRUPTLY, MR. ROULETTE MAKES HIS DECISION! FIRM FINGERS REACH FOR ONE OF THE PHONES! AND THEN...
OH, HELLO, MR. DUNCAN! NO--MY FREEZER IS FULL. I WON'T NEED MEAT THIS WEEK!
BROTHER! IF HE'S NOT KIDDING, WE JUST SAW A MAN ALMOST GET KILLED!

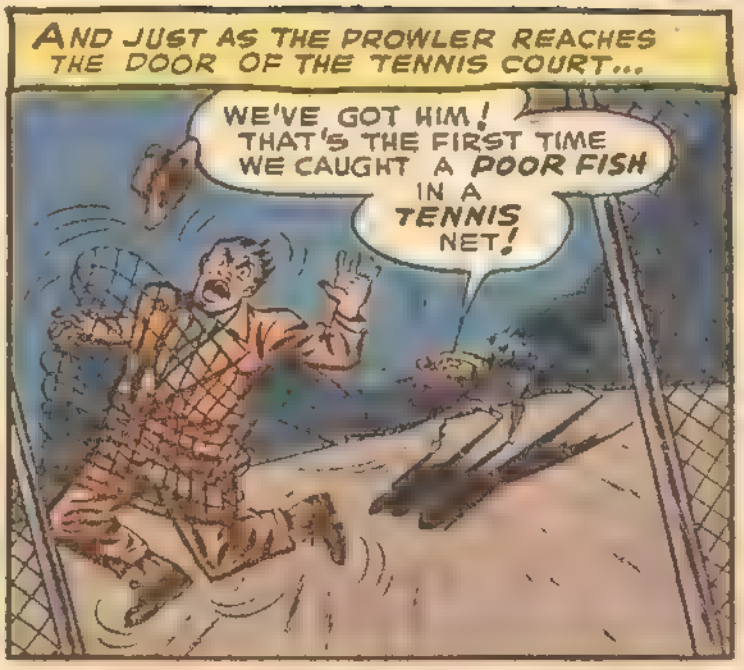

AND WHEN THE PHONE CONVERSATION ENDS...
AHHH-- THAT WAS EXCITING! BUT I SEE SKEPTICISM ON YOUR FACES! SO STAY WHERE YOU ARE--AND I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED, HAD I ANSWERED THE OTHER PHONE!

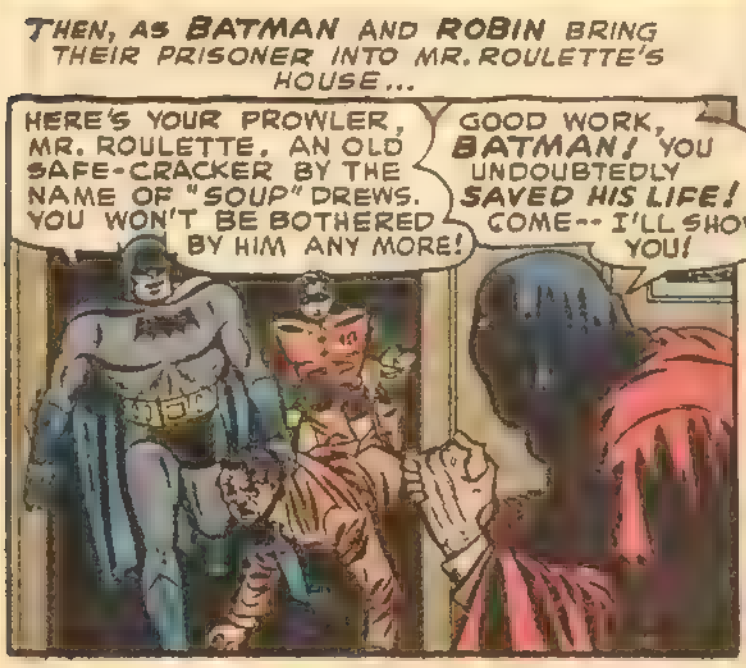

WITH HIS CANE, MR. ROULETTE UNHOOKS THE OTHER PHONE FROM ITS CRADLE. IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
A GUN MECHANISM--IN THE MOUTHPIECE! IT FIRED A SHOT!
LOOK--THE BULLET SPLINTERED THE CEILING!
HA, HA! NOW HOW DO YOU LIKE MY LITTLE GAME?

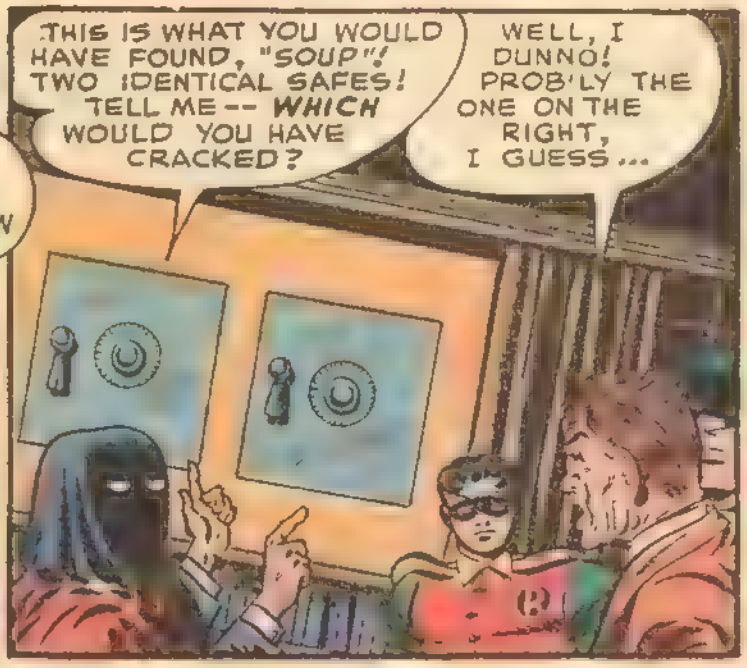

YOU'LL DO A STORY ABOUT ME, MISS VALE? THERE'S LOTS MORE TO TELL! FOR INSTANCE, ALL DEATH-TRAPS HERE ARE WIRED SO THAT THE ODDS KEEP CHANGING! TOMORROW, THE SAFE PHONE MAY BE THE DEADLY ONE! I NEVER KNOW FOR SURE!
COME ON, VICKI--I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE!
4

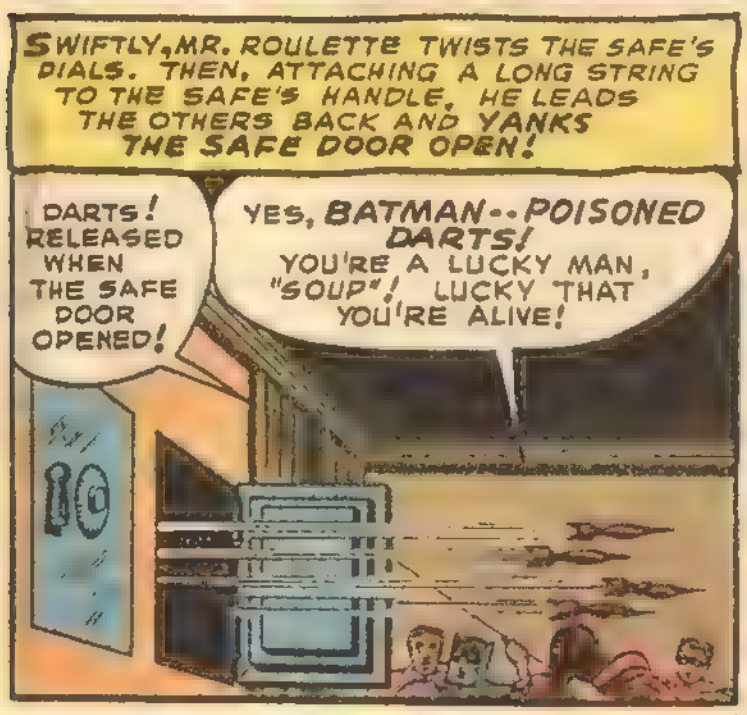
SOON AFTER...
A MAN LIKE THAT SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION! BUT THERE'D BE RED TAPE -- WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS -- WHO HIS FAMILY IS...
THEN THE FIRST THING TO DO IS SEEK CLUES TO HIS IDENTITY! WE'LL START TOMORROW -- WITH THAT PRIVATE DETECTIVE HE HIRED!
AND NEXT DAY, IN THE OFFICE OF MEL HUGHES...
I'M SORRY, BATMAN -- BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU. I'M OBLIGED TO KEEP MY CLIENT'S IDENTITY A SECRET...
HMM -- HIS NOSE! THAT'S FUNNY...
THAT NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN PONDER THEIR PROBLEM IN THEIR REAL IDENTITIES AS MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
WELL, MR. ROULETTE GOT ALL THE PUBLICITY HE WANTED! VICKI'S STORY HAS ALREADY LEAKED OUT TO THE PRESS!
HMM! I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT THAT FANTASTIC CHARACTER!
DISCOVER MAN WHO GAMBLES WITH DEATH
UNIDENTIFIED GAMBLER PLAYS CHILLING "GAMES" DAILY, WITH HIS LIFE EVER AT STAKE
ALL AT ONCE...
THE BAT-SIGNAL! LET'S GO, DICK! COMMISSIONER GORDON WANTS US AGAIN!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU -- AND RARIN' FOR ACTION!
LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..
A PROWLER REPORTED, BATMAN! I'D SEND A FEW OF MY MEN, BUT I THOUGHT THIS CASE WOULD INTEREST YOU! THE CALL CAME FROM MR. ROULETTE!
I'LL SAY I'M INTERESTED! COME ON, ROBIN -- WE MAY LEARN SOMETHING!
SOON AFTER, AS THE DARING LAWMEN CIRCLE MR. ROULETTE'S ESTATE IN A PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION...
THERE'S THE PROWLER, BATMAN -- ON THE TENNIS COURT! WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY!
HMMM! THE DOOR TO THE COURT IS ON THE FAR SIDE! QUICKLY, ROBIN! GRAB ONE OF THOSE SECTIONS OF PIPE, AND FOLLOW ME!
5


IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
THESE PIPES MAKE EXCELLENT VAULTING POLES! LUCKY THE GARAGE WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION!
WE HAVEN'T CAUGHT OUR MAN YET! MORE STRATEGY IS CALLED FOR!


AND JUST AS THE PROWLER REACHES THE DOOR OF THE TENNIS COURT...
WE'VE GOT HIM! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME WE CAUGHT A POOR FISH IN A TENNIS NET!

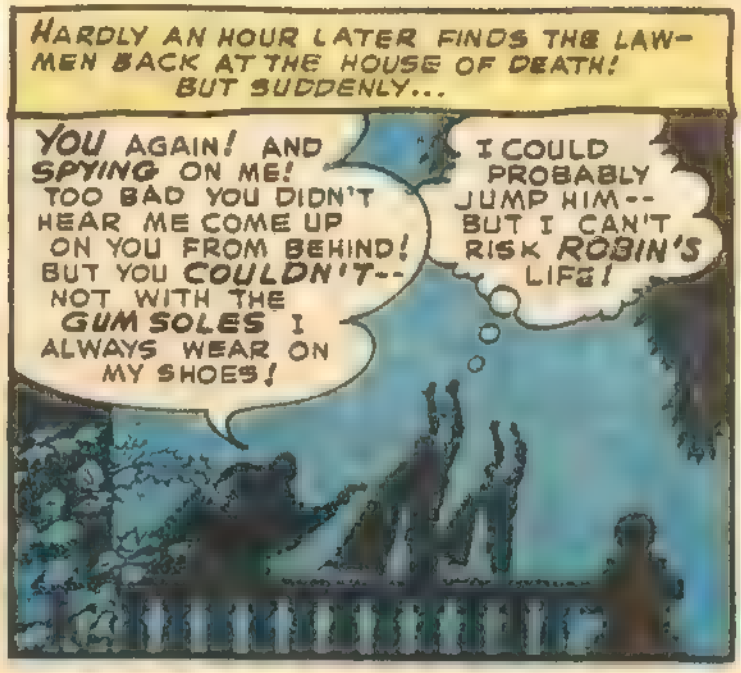

THEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN BRING THEIR PRISONER INTO MR. ROULETTE'S HOUSE...
HERE'S YOUR PROWLER, MR. ROULETTE. AN OLD SAFE-CRACKER BY THE NAME OF "SOUP" DREWS. YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED BY HIM ANY MORE!
GOOD WORK, BATMAN! YOU UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED HIS LIFE! COME-- I'LL SHOW YOU!

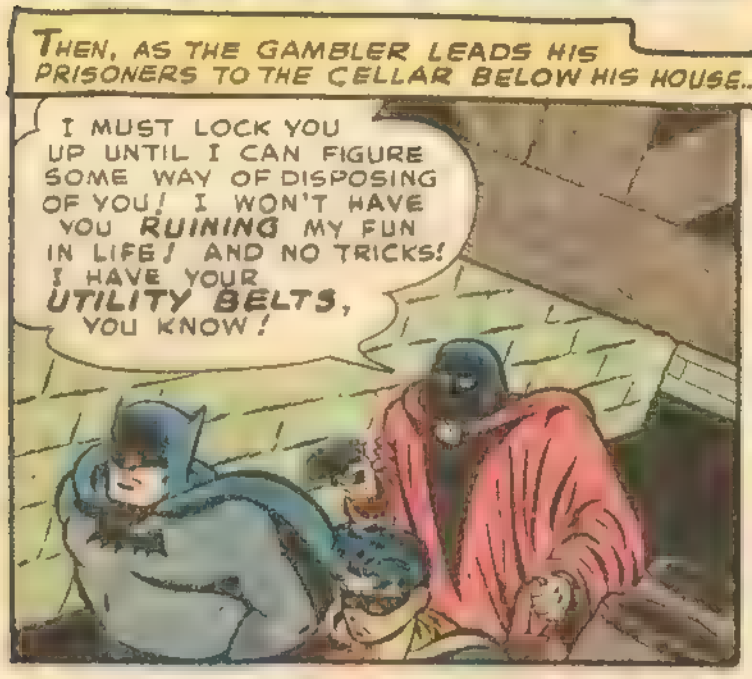

THIS IS WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND, "SOUP"! TWO IDENTICAL SAFES! TELL ME -- WHICH WOULD YOU HAVE CRACKED?
WELL, I DUNNO! PROB'LY THE ONE ON THE RIGHT, I GUESS...

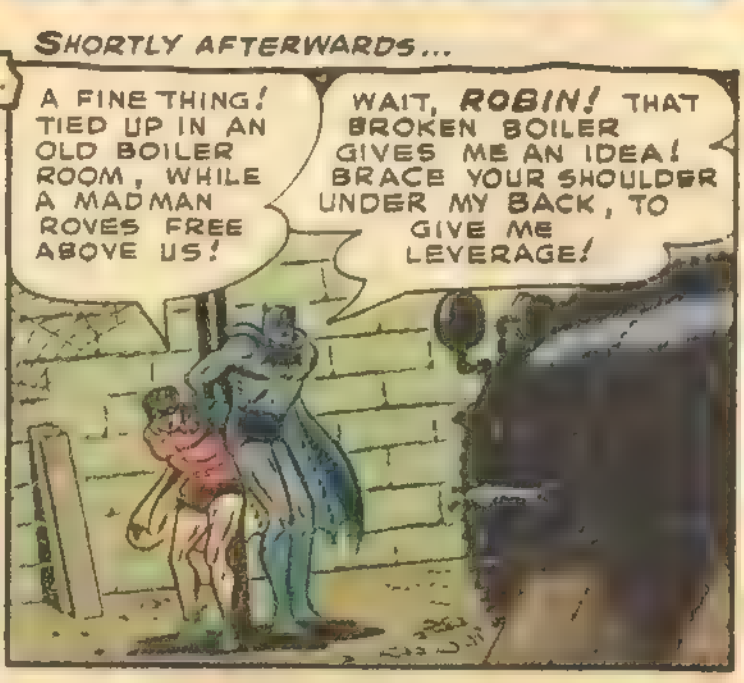

SWIFTLY, MR. ROULETTE TWISTS THE SAFE'S DIALS. THEN, ATTACHING A LONG STRING TO THE SAFE'S HANDLE, HE LEADS THE OTHERS BACK AND YANKS THE SAFE DOOR OPEN!
DARTS! RELEASED WHEN THE SAFE DOOR OPENED!
YES, BATMAN -- POISONED DARTS! YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, "SOUP"! LUCKY THAT YOU'RE ALIVE!

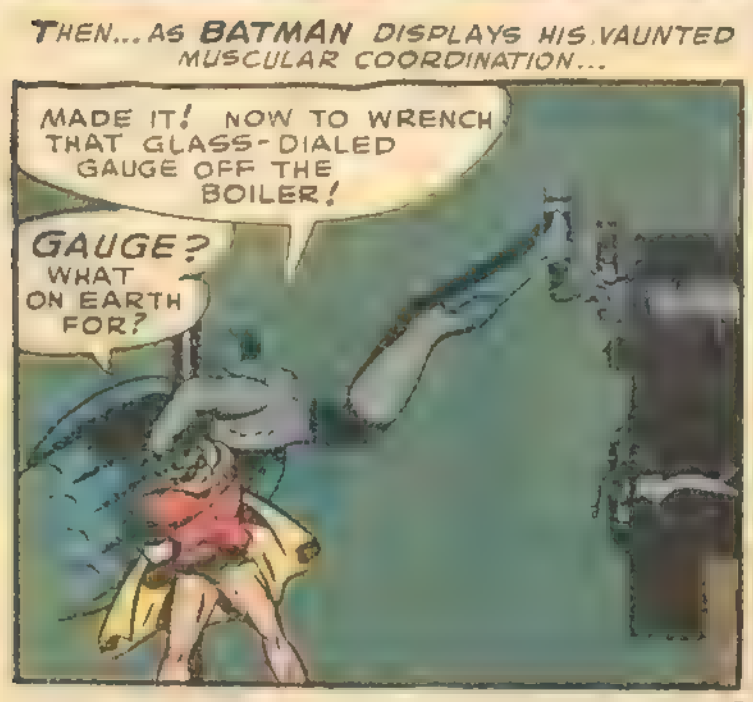
I'VE GOT TO ASK YOU TO STOP ALL THIS, MR. ROULETTE! THERE'S TOO MUCH DANGER HERE! INNOCENT PEOPLE-- PEDDLERS, DELIVERY MEN, MIGHT BE KILLED!
BUT YOU CAN'T ASK THAT! IT'S MY WHOLE LIFE! NO! I WON'T STOP! AND YOU CAN'T MAKE ME! THIS IS MY HOUSE! GET OUT! GET OUT!

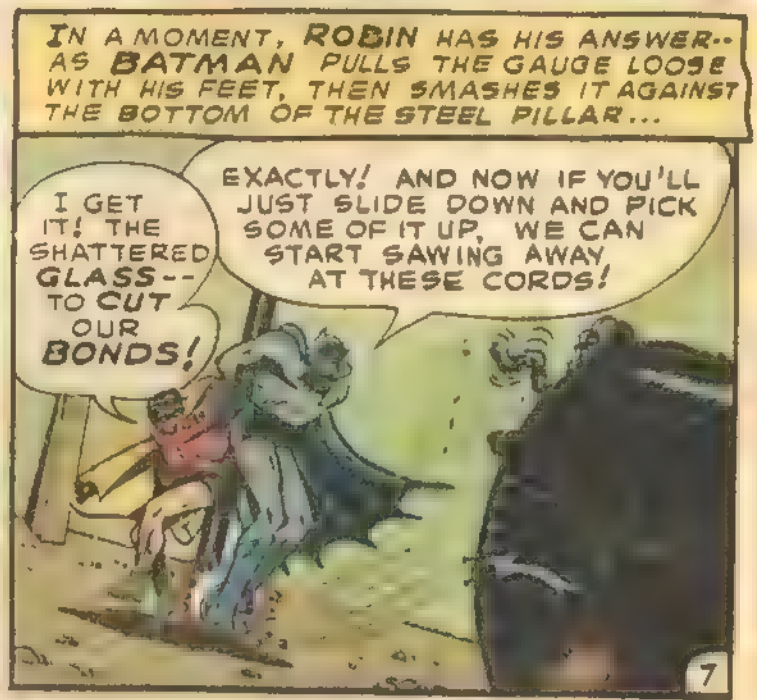
SOON AFTER...
WE'LL LEAVE NOW, ROBIN--BUT WE'LL DOUBLE BACK! AS SOON AS WE BOOK "SOUP" AT HEADQUARTERS, WE'LL RETURN--ON THE QUIET!
RIGHT! SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE THERE MAY BE AN INKLING TO MR. ROULETTE'S IDENTITY! WE MUST FIND IT!


HARDLY AN HOUR LATER FINDS THE LAWMEN BACK AT THE HOUSE OF DEATH! BUT SUDDENLY...
YOU AGAIN! AND SPYING ON ME! TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME COME UP ON YOU FROM BEHIND! BUT YOU COULDN'T--NOT WITH THE GUM SOLES I ALWAYS WEAR ON MY SHOES!
I COULD PROBABLY JUMP HIM--BUT I CAN'T RISK ROBIN'S LIFE!

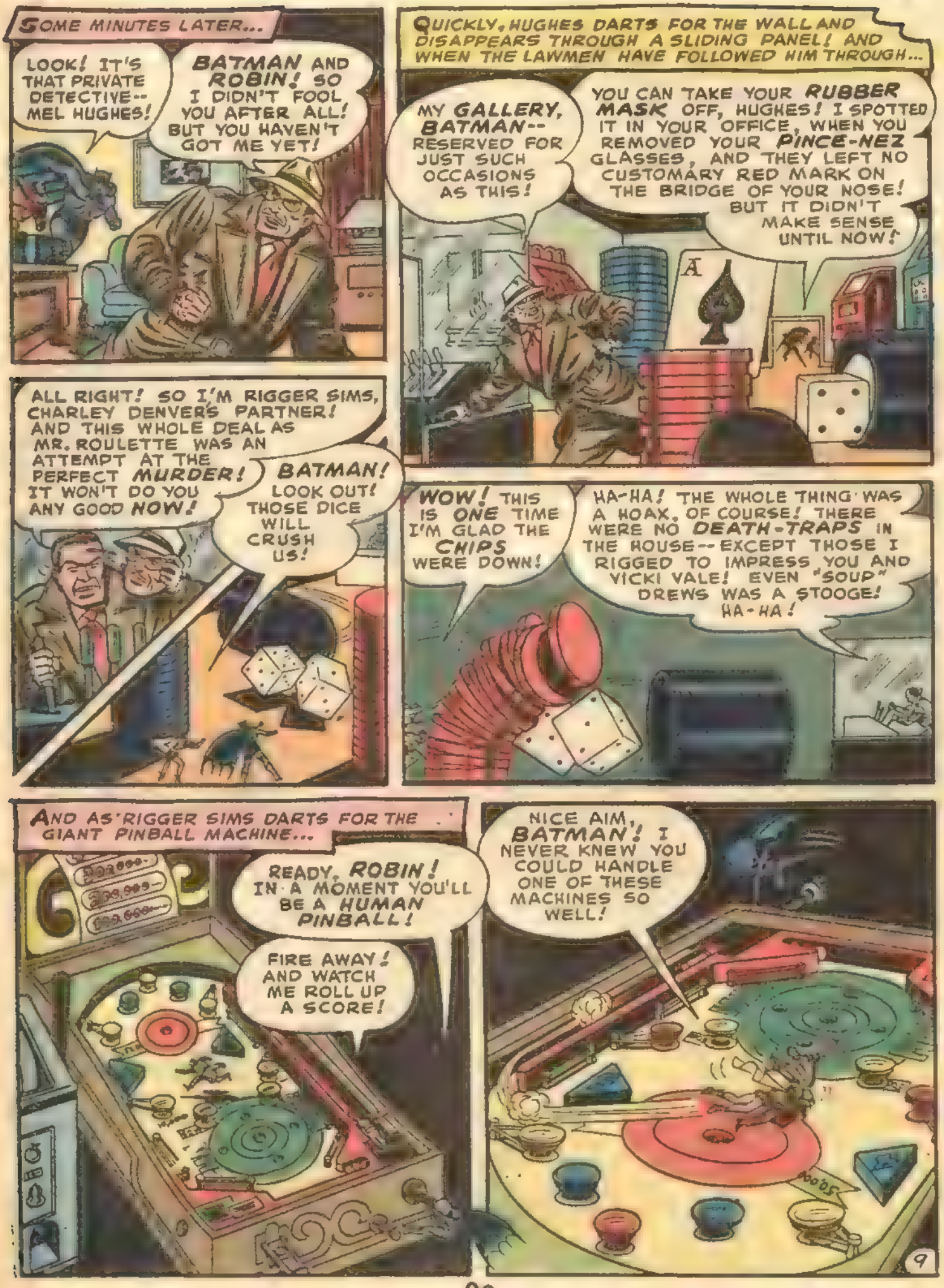

THEN, AS THE GAMBLER LEADS HIS PRISONERS TO THE CELLAR BELOW HIS HOUSE...
I MUST LOCK YOU UP UNTIL I CAN FIGURE SOME WAY OF DISPOSING OF YOU! I WON'T HAVE YOU RUINING MY FUN IN LIFE! AND NO TRICKS! I HAVE YOUR UTILITY BELTS, YOU KNOW!


SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
A FINE THING! TIED UP IN AN OLD BOILER ROOM, WHILE A MADMAN ROVES FREE ABOVE US!
WAIT, ROBIN! THAT BROKEN BOILER GIVES ME AN IDEA! BRACE YOUR SHOULDER UNDER MY BACK, TO GIVE ME LEVERAGE!


THEN...AS BATMAN DISPLAYS HIS VAUNTED MUSCULAR COORDINATION...
MADE IT! NOW TO WRENCH THAT GLASS-DIALED GAUGE OFF THE BOILER!
GAUGE? WHAT ON EARTH FOR?


IN A MOMENT, ROBIN HAS HIS ANSWER--AS BATMAN PULLS THE GAUGE LOOSE WITH HIS FEET, THEN SMASHES IT AGAINST THE BOTTOM OF THE STEEL PILLAR...
I GET IT! THE SHATTERED GLASS--TO CUT OUR BONDS!
EXACTLY! AND NOW IF YOU'LL JUST SLIDE DOWN AND PICK SOME OF IT UP, WE CAN START SAWING AWAY AT THESE CORDS!
7

AND THEN, JUST AS THE DARING DUO SLASHES ITS WAY FREE...
BANG!
THAT WAS A SHOT, BATMAN-- AND IT CAME FROM RIGHT OVERHEAD!
COME ON! WE'RE GOING UP TO HAVE A LOOK!
A MOMENT LATER...
IT'S MR. ROULETTE--DEAD! HE GAMBLED ONCE TOO OFTEN!
THERE'S THE WEAPON, ROBIN! A GUN, CONCEALED WITHIN THE SPEAKER OF THAT RADIO!
IT'S OBVIOUS WHAT HAPPENED! MR. ROULETTE WANTED TO HEAR THE RADIO -- AND HE GAMBLED ON THE WRONG ONE! LET'S TAKE OFF HIS MASK -- AND SEE IF WE KNOW HIM...
AND THEN...
WHY, BATMAN! MR. ROULETTE WAS CHARLEY DENVER, THE NOTORIOUS GAMBLER!
THAT'S IT, ROBIN! WE'D BETTER HURRY DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS!
BUT ONCE OUTSIDE, BATMAN'S MANNER SUDDENLY CHANGES! HE GRABS A SURPRISED ROBIN, PULLS HIM AGAINST THE HOUSE...
I DIDN'T WANT TO TIP IT OFF IN THERE-- SO I PLAYED ALONG! BUT--THE DEAD MAN IS NOT THE MAN WE KNEW AS MR. ROULETTE!
HE ISN'T? BUT--- HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HIS SHOES! REMEMBER-- MR. ROULETTE BOASTED ABOUT HIS GUM SOLES? THE DEAD MAN'S SOLES AND HEELS ARE LEATHER! QUIET, NOW! WE'LL SLIP BACK IN-- AND NAB A KILLER!
8


SOME MINUTES LATER...
LOOK! IT'S THAT PRIVATE DETECTIVE-- MEL HUGHES!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! SO I DIDN'T FOOL YOU AFTER ALL! BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME YET!
QUICKLY, HUGHES DARTS FOR THE WALL AND DISAPPEARS THROUGH A SLIDING PANEL! AND WHEN THE LAWMEN HAVE FOLLOWED HIM THROUGH...
MY GALLERY, BATMAN-- RESERVED FOR JUST SUCH OCCASIONS AS THIS!
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR RUBBER MASK OFF, HUGHES! I SPOTTED IT IN YOUR OFFICE, WHEN YOU REMOVED YOUR PINCE-NEZ GLASSES, AND THEY LEFT NO CUSTOMARY RED MARK ON THE BRIDGE OF YOUR NOSE! BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE UNTIL NOW!
ALL RIGHT! SO I'M RIGGER SIMS, CHARLEY DENVER'S PARTNER! AND THIS WHOLE DEAL AS MR. ROULETTE WAS AN ATTEMPT AT THE PERFECT MURDER! IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD NOW!
BATMAN! LOOK OUT! THOSE DICE WILL CRUSH US!
WOW! THIS IS ONE TIME I'M GLAD THE CHIPS WERE DOWN!
HA-HA! THE WHOLE THING WAS A HOAX, OF COURSE! THERE WERE NO DEATH-TRAPS IN THE HOUSE-- EXCEPT THOSE I RIGGED TO IMPRESS YOU AND VICKI VALE! EVEN "SOUP" DREWS WAS A STOOGE! HA-HA!
AND AS RIGGER SIMS DARTS FOR THE GIANT PINBALL MACHINE...
READY, ROBIN! IN A MOMENT YOU'LL BE A HUMAN PINBALL!
FIRE AWAY! AND WATCH ME ROLL UP A SCORE!
NICE AIM, BATMAN! I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD HANDLE ONE OF THESE MACHINES SO WELL!
9

BUT, IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT, SIMS WRIGGLES FREE OF ROBIN'S GRASP! AND THEN, AS THE LAWMEN CHASE HIM TO THE ROULETTE WHEEL...

SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG WITH THE CONTROLS! THE WHEEL IS SPINNING--THE BALL HAS BEEN RELEASED!

DUCK INTO A NUMBER-SLOT, ROBIN! WE HAVEN'T TIME TO GET OFF!

THAT WAS CLOSE! I'M GLAD OUR NUMBER WASN'T UP!

AND THEN...

HE'S MOVING! LUCKY FOR HIM HE WASN'T KILLED!

DOUBLE ZERO--THE HOUSE WINS! A FITTING END TO THE CAREER OF GAMBLER SIMS!

LATER AT HEADQUARTERS...

YOU SEE, VICKI, SIMS WANTED DENVER OUT OF THE WAY SO HE COULD POCKET ALL THE PROFITS OUT OF A FABULOUS OIL WELL THEY INVESTED IN JOINTLY...

BUT HE KNEW HE'D BE SUSPECTED! SO HE DREAMED UP MR. ROULETTE, AND USED YOU FOR PUBLICITY, VICKI! HE FELT THE WORLD WOULD ACCEPT MR. ROULETTE'S DEATH AS A MATTER OF COURSE--BUT HE FAILED TO COUNT ON BATMAN!

THE END

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IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
MENACE OF THE MYSTERIOUS VOYAGER
SUPER-MARRIAGE SUPER-FLOP!
The 6-LEGGED LEGIONNAIRE

ON SALE NOV. 25

GIANT BATMAIL

N-442

Dear Mr. Bridwell:

Fantastic! *Batman* #233 (G-85) has got to be the best reprint collection since reprints started! I'm a big fan of bit-by-bit analysis, so I shall examine this latest masterpiece in this manner.

Cover: The non-sloppy pictures surrounded by a black background were beautiful. And those extra-long ears on the center pic of *The Batman* made for the best *Giant Batman* cover since #198! Credits for the cover artist, please.

"The Death Cheaters of Gotham City": A classic mystery from nearly 20 years ago, so ingeniously plotted I couldn't believe it was first published so long ago.

"The Other Bruce Wayne": The low point of the book was greater than some of the current *Batgirl* scripts, but I admit it wasn't too bad, and probably was a real hot one by '57 standards.

"The Murder of Bruce Wayne": This may just be a personal favorite of mine, since I enjoy those revenge stories, but slight updating in art and dialogue, and you could have easily passed it off as a superior "new" story!

"Bruce Wayne's Aunt Agatha": I expected this to be the one to ruin an otherwise 99.9% perfect ish, but I was wrong. *Aunt Agatha* was a corny gimmick to get *Batman* on the spot; but disguising herself as *The Joker*, proving she wasn't just a senile old lady, was a real twist which hit me in the right place.

"The Crime of Bruce Wayne": This was the real high point of this glorious group of reprints. I seem to recall the name of *The Collector* from a recent *Brave & Bold*, but that didn't hurt the story at all. I would have liked to see a longer courtroom scene, as portrayed in two panels on page 3. But just watching *Bruce* helplessly framed and nearly executed had me in suspense.

In general: Someone has said this before, so I shall quote this forever-nameless fan: "You'll never top this one!" But if you want to top it, go right ahead. And considering this was only a bunch of reprints, you should be proud of yourself for deserving all this praise. Congrats and *thanx* for a job of researching back issues well done.

Jay L. Zilber, Columbus, Ohio

(Credits for the cover artist: Dick Giordano did it! Sorry we can't also identify the originator of that phrase, "You'll never top this one!" Actually, it's hard to compare our new Spectaculars *with the old* Giants, *but try.* Did *we top it?*—E.N.B.)

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Dear Editor:

While the theme of *Batman* #233 was not an original one, it was new to the *Batman Giants*, and therefore enjoyable. The cover and contents page drawings were an extra treat.

So under the theme "Batman's Secret Identity, Bruce Wayne," the first story was "The Death-cheaters of Gotham City." It was good; I always enjoy the whodunnits. Also interesting was the fact that the last four panels were turned upside-down. Was it originally printed this way?

"The Other Bruce Wayne" was even better. *Bruce's* cousin, *Bruce N.*, was somewhat egotistical, but I guess that's how it was planned. I really winced for (our) *Bruce's* pride when he got tossed around by his cousin and had to stand there and take it. But *Batman's* great "face-saving" routine at the very end made up for it.

The really best crime story was "The Murder of Bruce Wayne." The maddened crook, *Roger Keep*, was a startling change from *Batman's* typical foes. I enjoyed seeing *Batman* and *Robin* actually sweating to keep up with *Keep's* maniacal threats. Also good was *Commissioner Gordon's* disgust with the *Dynamic Duo* for their seeming inability to prevent the deaths of the various trustees.

But my very favorite story was "Bruce Wayne's Aunt Agatha." I had heard about this story many times, but had never read it. It was better than I had imagined! Particularly ironic but nonetheless amusing was *Aunt Agatha* dressing like *The Joker* and saving *Batman* and *Robin*. I wish more stories had been written about the old lady.

"The Crime of Bruce Wayne" was a little hard to follow. I couldn't see why *Bruce* allowed himself to be tried as the criminal called *The Collector*. What if the real *Collector* had come forward and exposed the whole thing? He might have, you know, if he were egotistical enough. And then, where would *Bruce* have been? Still, I enjoyed seeing *Batwoman* and *Robin* team together to save *Bruce*. Interesting, too, was the fact that *Bruce* appeared in only one panel throughout the story as *Batman*, and then he didn't even have his mask on!

Scott Gibson, Sterling, Colo.

(Yes, the last panels of "Death-Cheaters" were originally printed upside-down to allow the reader a chance to solve the crime before reading The Batman's *solution.*—E.N.B.)

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Dear Editor:

I am puzzled! Your company publishes *Batman* monthly with the exception of April and October . . . correct? But I see that *Batman* #232 is dated June, while #233 is August! What happened to July?

Robert Wisniewski, Syracuse, N.Y.

(If you'll check the indicia on page 3 of our Giant *issues—or* Super-Specs*—you'll find that they were dated like bi-monthly magazine. Thus, #232 was the July-August issue, although the cover only bore the latter date—August.* —E.N.B.)

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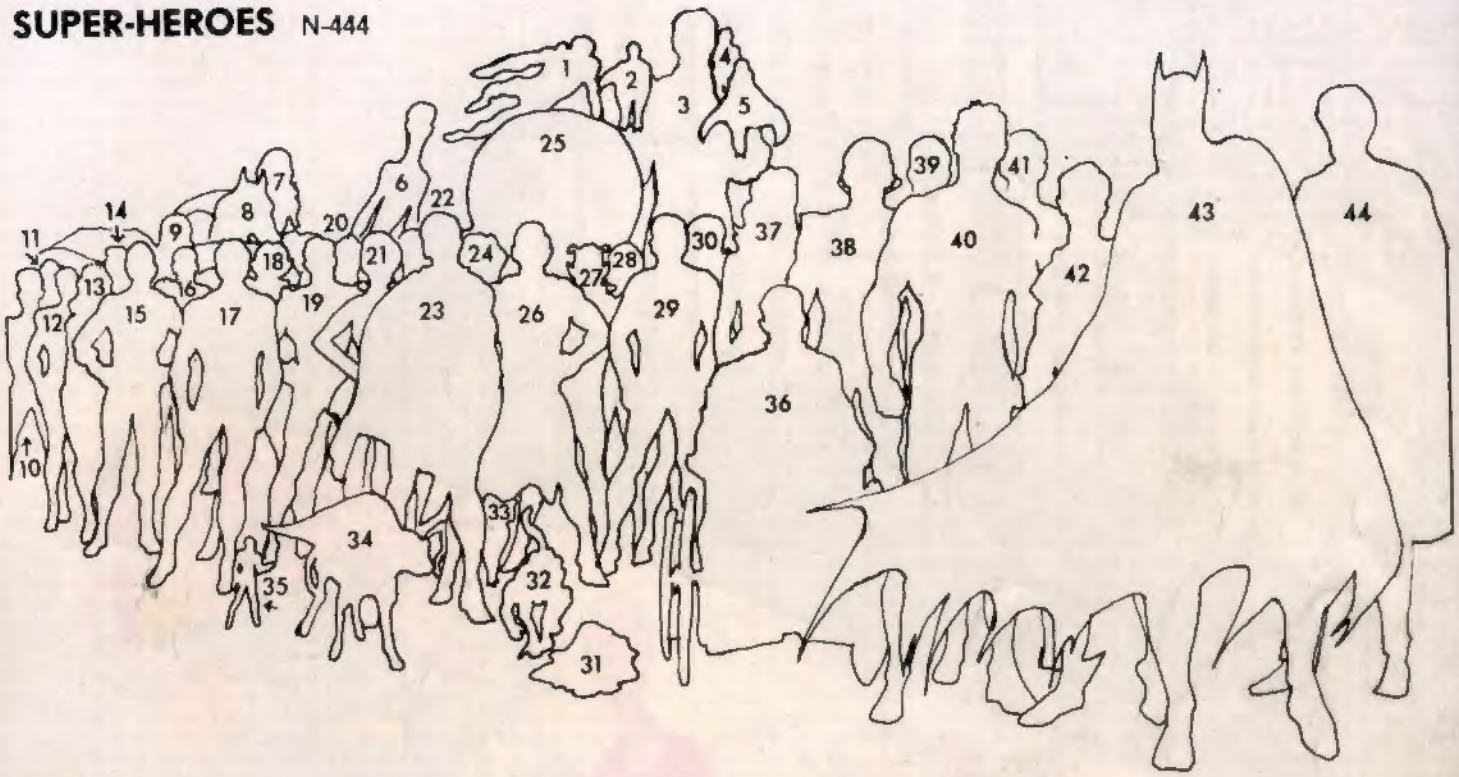
Send All comments on this *Super-Spectacular* to GIANT BATMAIL, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022

KEY TO THE SUPER-HEROES N-444



PART 1—THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

1. TIMBER WOLF (Brin Londo)—Planet Zoon—Super- strength and super-athletic abilities.
2. STAR BOY (Thom Kallor)—Planet Xanthu—Induces mass to make objects super-heavy.
3. COLOSSAL BOY (Gim Allon)—Planet Earth—Super- growth.
4. CHEMICAL KING (Condo Arlik)—Planet Valdow—Power to alter chemical reactions.
5. SHADOW LASS (Tasmia Malor)—Planet Talok VIII—Creates darkness.
6. ELASTIC LAD (Jimmy Olsen)—Planet Earth—Super- stretching. Honorary member.
7. SUPERGIRL (Linda Danvers)—Planet Krypton.
8. COMET THE SUPERHORSE (Biron the Centaur)—Member of the Legion of Super-Pets.
9. INSECT QUEEN (Lana Lang)—Planet Earth—Can assume any insect form. A Legion Reservist.
10. KID PSYCHO (Gnill Opral)—Planet Hajor—Creates impenetrable force-screens; but each time, he shortens his life. A Reservist.
11. ELEMENT LAD (Jan Arrah)—Planet Trom—Changes any element to any other.
12. FERRO LAD (Andrew Nolan)—Planet Earth—Could change to near-invulnerable iron. Killed in action.
13. DREAM GIRL (Nura Nal)—Planet Naltor—Can see a year into the future.
14. SUN BOY (Dirk Morgna)—Planet Earth—Creates super-heat and light.
15. BRAINIAC 5 (Querl Dox)—Planet Colu—Super-brain.
16. LIGHTNING LAD (Garth Ranzz)—Planet Winath—Super- lightning power.
17. ULTRA BOY. (Jo Nah)—Planet Rimbor—Ultra-strength, speed, vision and invulnerability; can use only one power at a time.
18. DUO DAMSEL (Luornu Durgo)—Planet Cargg—Can split into two girls.
19. COSMIC BOY (Rokk Krinn)—Planet Braal—Super-magnetic powers.
20. KARATE KID (Val Armorr)—Planet Earth—Super-Karate.
21. LIGHT LASS (Ayla Ranzz)—Planet Winath— Can make objects super-lightweight.
22. INVISIBLE KID (Lyle Norg)—Planet Earth—Invisibility.
23. SUPERBOY (Clark Kent)—Planet Krypton—Resigned active membership; still a Reservist.
24. PRINCESS PROJECTRA—Planet Orando—Illusion casting.
25. BOUNCING BOY (Chuck Taine)—Planet Earth—Super-bouncing.
26. MON-EL (Lar Gand)—Planet Daxam—Same as Superboy.
27. CHAMELEON BOY (Reep Daggle)—Planet Durla—Shape-changing.
28. SATURN GIRL (Imra Ardeen)—Planet Saturn—Telepathy.
29. MATTER-EATER LAD (Tenzil Kem)—Planet Bismoll—Eats anything.
30. PHANTOM GIRL (Tinya Wazzo) Planet Bgztl—Can dematerialize and pass through solid objects.
31. PROTY II—Planet Sua—same power as Chameleon Boy; a Super-Pet.
32. BEPPO THE SUPER-MONKEY—Planet Krypton—A Super- Pet.
33. STREAKY THE SUPER-CAT—Planet Earth—A Super-Pet.
34. KRYPTO THE SUPER-DOG—Planet Krypton—A Super-Pet.
35. SHRINKING VIOLET (Salu Digby)—Planet Imsk—Super-shrinking.

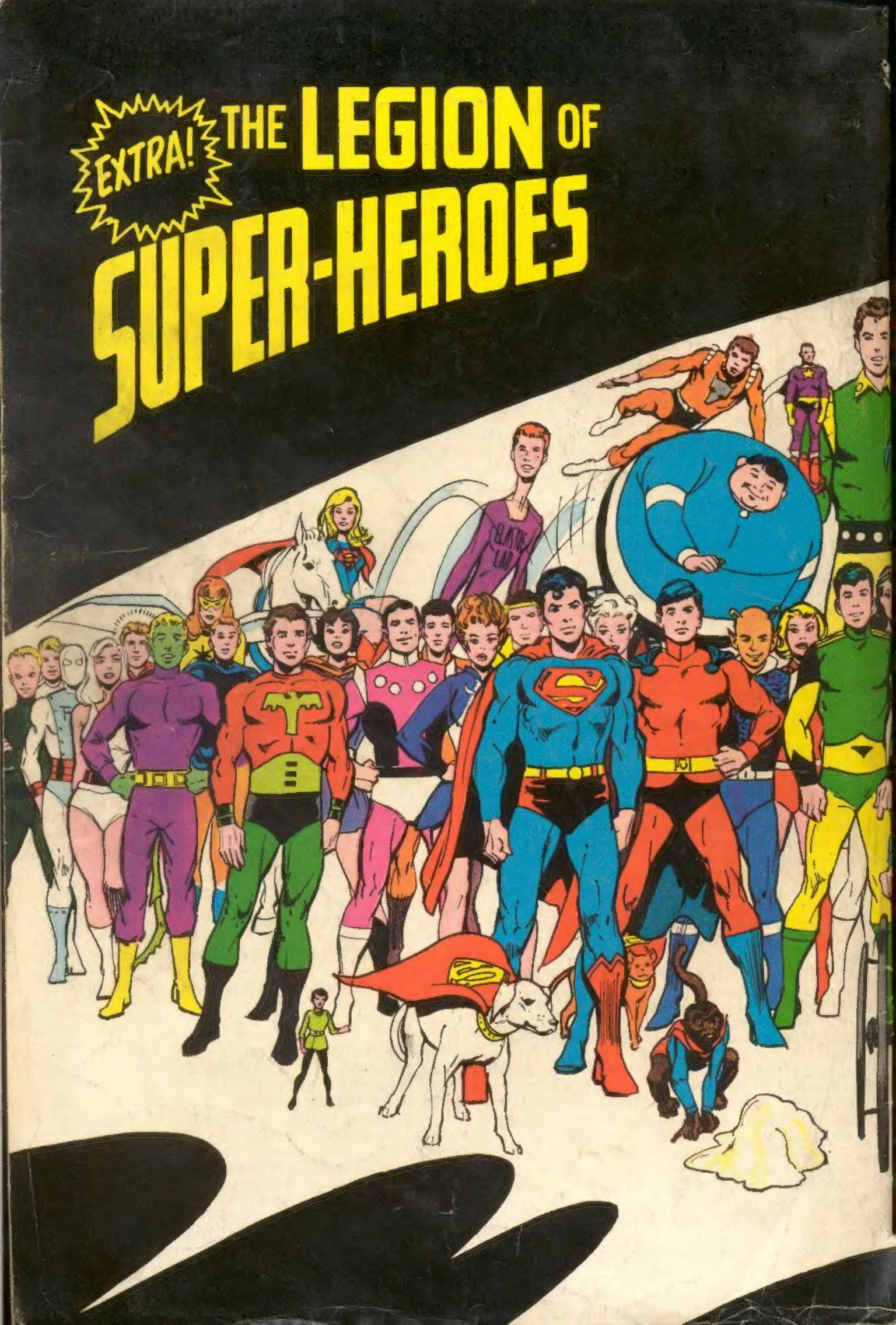
PART 2—THE DOOM PATROL

36. Dr. Niles Calder, alias THE CHIEF.
37. ELASTI-GIRL (Rita Farr).
38. ROBOTMAN (Cliff Steele).
39. NEGATIVE MAN (Larry Traynor).

PART 3

40. PLASTIC MAN (Eel O'Brian).
41. AQUAMAN (Arthur Curry).
42. ROBIN (Dick Grayson).
43. THE BATMAN (Bruce Wayne).
44. SARGON THE SORCERER (John Sargent).

Not shown—THE ATOM (Al Pratt).


EXTRA!
THE LEGION OF
SUPER-HEROES